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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

16 June 1955 - 15 June 1956

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS : ELEVENTH SESSION
SUPPLEMENT No. 1 (A/3137)

NEW YORK, 1956

UNITED NATIONS, Secretary General,

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Foreword

I submit herewith my eleventh annual report to the General Assembly on the work of the Organization from 16 June 1955 to 15 June 1956.

The review of the role of the Organization in world affairs which is usually included as an Introduction to my annual report will this year be submitted, at a date nearer to the opening of the eleventh session, as an addendum to the present document.

Dag HAMMARSKJOLD
Secretary-General

20 June 1956

Chapter I

POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS

Chapter I covers the activities of the United Nations on political and security matters between 16 June 1955 and 15 June 1956. It gives an account of the action taken by the General Assembly at its tenth session, by the Security Council and by the Secretary-General, as well as by the various committees and commissions set up to deal with political and security questions.

At its tenth session, the General Assembly elected Australia, Cuba and Yugoslavia as non-permanent members of the Security Council to fill vacancies resulting from the expiration, on 31 December 1955, of the terms of office of Brazil, New Zealand and Turkey. Corresponding changes consequently took place in the membership of the Disarmament Commission.

During the period under review, the Military Staff Committee continued to function under its draft rules of procedure and held twenty-six meetings.

1. The question of disarmament

(*a*) Proceedings of the Disarmament Commission's Sub-Committee

As stated in the previous annual report of the Secretary-General, the Sub-Committee of the Disarmament Commission, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 808 (IX), met in London from 25 February to 18 May 1955, and met again in New York on 1 June to consider its future programme of work.

When it reconvened on 29 August 1955 in New York, it had before it a directive issued by the Heads of Government of France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America at their meeting held in July of the same year in Geneva. It held eighteen meetings before adopting, on 7 October, its second report to the Disarmament Commission.

(*b*) Consideration by the Disarmament Commission of the second report of its Sub-Committee

The Disarmament Commission held two meetings in New York on 21 October 1955 to consider the second report of its Sub-Committee and three more meetings from 23 to 25 November. In the interval the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of France, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States had met in Geneva from 27 October to 16 November and had considered, among other things, the problem of disarmament. The Commission heard the statements of the members of the Sub-Committee, who outlined the positions of their respective delegations, also statements by the representatives of New Zealand and Peru, who reviewed the work of the Sub-Committee.

On 25 November, the Disarmament Commission decided unanimously to take note of the second report of its Sub-Committee and to transmit it to the Security Council and the General Assembly, together with the verbatim record of the meetings of the Commission.

(*c*) Consideration by the General Assembly at its tenth session

The General Assembly included the question of disarmament in the agenda of its tenth session under the title: "Regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and all armaments. Conclusion of an international convention (treaty) on the reduction of armaments and the prohibition of atomic, hydrogen and other weapons of mass destruction: report of the Disarmament Commission". It also included an item proposed by the USSR on 23 September 1955 entitled: "Measures for the further relaxation of international tension and development of international co-operation". The First Committee, to which both items were referred, decided to consider them concurrently and did so at fourteen meetings held between 30 November and 12 December 1955.

With the request for the inclusion of its item, the USSR had submitted a draft resolution according to which the Assembly would: (1) call upon Governments to continue their efforts with a view to consolidating universal peace and security; and (2) attach particular importance to the consideration of proposals by States designed to put an end to the armaments race and to settle outstanding international problems through negotiations, such as the proposals of the USSR of 10 May and 21 July 1955, the United States proposal of 21 July 1955 made at Geneva by President Eisenhower, and the proposals introduced there by the United Kingdom and by France, and pertinent proposals by other States.

The USSR proposal of 10 May referred to in the USSR draft resolution had been submitted initially to the Sub-Committee of the Disarmament Commission. It was divided into three parts:

(1) A declaration by the General Assembly on the requisite conditions for the execution of a disarmament programme, including recommendations for the settling of outstanding international problems by means of negotiation, the withdrawal of the armed forces of

the four occupying Powers from Germany, the liquidation of foreign military bases, etc.;

(2) A programme concerning the conclusion of an international convention on the reduction of armaments and the prohibition of atomic weapons, to be carried out in two stages, the first in 1956, the second in 1957. During the first stage, the five permanent members of the Security Council should carry out 50 per cent of the reductions of their armed forces to the levels fixed at 1 to 1.5 million men for China, the USSR and the United States, and at 650,000 men for France and the United Kingdom, while a world disarmament conference would determine the reductions of other States, the strength of which should in all cases be considerably lower than the levels allotted to the five permanent members of the Security Council. Tests of nuclear weapons would be discontinued, the use of nuclear weapons would be prohibited except in defence against aggression when a decision to that effect was taken by the Security Council, and military bases in the territories of other States would be reduced. During the second stage, the production of nuclear weapons would be discontinued, the reductions would be carried out to the agreed levels, and the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons would enter into force when 75 per cent of the reductions had taken place, after which the elimination of those weapons would start. Finally, the military bases on foreign soil would be liquidated;

(3) The third part of the USSR proposal of 10 May 1955 consisted of a plan for the control of the reductions of armaments and armed forces and the prohibition of nuclear weapons, including the establishment on the territory of all States of control posts at strategic points in order to prevent any dangerous concentration of armed forces likely to accompany any surprise attack.

The USSR proposal submitted at Geneva on 21 July by Chairman Bulganin had reaffirmed the main provisions of the proposal of 10 May and provided, in addition, that the levels of armed forces of the States other than the five permanent members of the Security Council should not exceed 150,000 to 200,000 men and that, pending the conclusion of the disarmament agreement, the States possessing nuclear weapons would undertake not to be the first to use them.

The proposal submitted by President Eisenhower on 21 July had envisaged as a practical step that the United States and the USSR should give each other a complete blueprint of their military establishments and provide within their countries facilities to the other country for aerial photography, in order to convince the world that they were providing as between themselves against the possibility of a surprise attack, thus lessening danger and relaxing tension. It was the intention of the United States Government that ground observers would be stationed at key locations within their countries to give warning of evidence of surprise attack or of mobilization, that the blueprints of military establishments would consist of the identification, strength, command structure and disposition of personnel, units and equipment of all major armed forces including paramilitary forces, and a complete list of military plants, facilities and installations, with their locations, and that aerial reconnaissance should be unrestricted but monitored and be made by visual, photographic and electronic means.

The proposal introduced by the United Kingdom at Geneva had contemplated that, as a means of increasing mutual confidence in Europe, consideration should be given to the establishment of a system of joint inspection of the forces confronting each other in Europe. In specified areas of agreed extent on either side of the line dividing Eastern and Western Europe, joint inspection teams would operate by mutual consent.

The proposal introduced by France at Geneva had provided that States should agree to a reduction in the amount of their military expenditure and that the financial resources thus made available should be allocated, as a whole or in part, to international expenditure for development and mutual assistance.

On 1 December, in the First Committee, India submitted a draft resolution, later revised, by which the General Assembly would: (1) request all States concerned to initiate negotiations to effect suspension of experimental explosions of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons; (2) request the Disarmament Commission to submit proposals for an armaments truce pending an agreement on disarmament; (3) decide that, in view of the urgency and the importance of the problem, the tenth session of the General Assembly should, instead of closing, stand recessed to be reconvened by the President as appropriate.

On 2 December, Canada, France, the United Kingdom and the United States submitted a draft resolution, which was revised later to take into account some amendments submitted by the USSR and some provisions of the proposal introduced by India. A second revision of the four-Power draft resolution, incorporating an amendment by India and an amendment by Costa Rica, Mexico and Pakistan, provided that the General Assembly would: (1) urge the States concerned and the Sub-Committee of the Disarmament Commission (*a*) to continue their endeavours to reach agreement on a comprehensive disarmament plan in accordance with the goals set out in General Assembly resolution 808 (IX); (*b*) as an initial step, to give priority to early agreement on and implementation of (i) such confidence-building measures as the plan of President Eisenhower for exchanging military blueprints and mutual aerial inspection, and the plan of Chairman Bulganin for establishing control posts at strategic centres; (ii) all such measures of adequately safeguarded disarmament as were feasible; (2) suggest that account should also be taken of the proposals of the Prime Minister of France for exchanging information on military expenditures, of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom for seeking practical experience in the problems of inspection and control, and of India on the suspension of experimental explosions of nuclear weapons and an "armaments truce"; (3) call upon the States concerned, and especially those on the Sub-Committee of the Disarmament Commission, to study the proposal of the Prime Minister of France for the allocation of funds resulting from disarmament for improving the standards of living throughout the world and, in particular, in the less-developed countries; (4) recommend further that scientific search should be continued by each State for methods that would make possible thoroughly effective inspection and control of nuclear weapons material; (5) suggest that the Disarmament Commission should reconvene its Sub-Committee and that both should pursue their efforts to attain the above objectives; (6) decide to transmit to the Disarmament Commission for its information the records of the meetings of the First Committee at which the disarmament problem was discussed during the

tenth session of the Assembly, and request the Disarmament Commission and the Sub-Committee to give careful and early consideration to the views expressed in those documents.

On 6 December, the USSR submitted amendments to the four-Power draft resolution. On 12 December, revised amendments to the second revision of the four-Power draft resolution were submitted which, in addition to an amendment in the preamble, provided for the following changes: (1) paragraph 1, sub-paragraph (b) (i), was to comprise the proposals of the USSR of 10 May and 21 July 1955; the proposal made at Geneva by President Eisenhower; the proposal of France and the proposal of the United Kingdom made at Geneva, and relevant proposals of other States; (2) paragraph 4 was to read as follows: "Considers further that the study of methods of control over the execution by States of their disarmament obligations, to be carried out in the various countries at the present time, should have as its aim to facilitate the solution of the problem of disarmament".

On 7 December, India submitted amendments to the four-Power draft resolution. On 12 December, revised amendments were submitted to the revised four-Power draft resolution. Some of these revised amendments were later withdrawn when the four Powers submitted a second revision of their draft resolution. The remaining Indian amendments provided that the Assembly would (1) decide to reconstitute and enlarge the Disarmament Commission and request it to expand its Sub-Committee as appropriate; (2) decide that the Disarmament Commission should undertake without delay the drafting of an international disarmament convention.

On 9 December, Costa Rica, Mexico and Pakistan submitted an amendment to the four-Power draft resolution, which was incorporated in the second revision of that text.

On 12 December, Syria submitted a sub-amendment to the revised Indian amendment to the revised four-Power draft resolution with a view to enlarging the Disarmament Commission by adding to its membership for 1956 Argentina, Egypt, India, the Philippines, Poland, Sweden and Yugoslavia.

In the voting in the First Committee, priority was given to the four-Power draft resolution. It was adopted by 53 votes to 5. The USSR amendments, the Indian amendments and the Syrian sub-amendment to the Indian amendments were rejected. The Indian draft resolution was rejected and the USSR draft resolution was not put to the vote.

The General Assembly considered the report of the First Committee on 16 December 1955. The draft resolution recommended by the Committee was adopted by 56 votes to 7 (resolution 914 (X)). The USSR draft resolution was resubmitted but withdrawn; amendments by the USSR to the draft resolution were rejected; an amendment by Syria was not put to the vote.

(*d*) Further proceedings of the Disarmament Commission and its sub-committee

On 23 January 1956, the Disarmament Commission met in conformity with General Assembly resolution 914 (X). It was agreed that its Sub-Committee should meet in the near future, the exact time and place to be agreed through diplomatic channels; that the Sub-Committee should issue an interim report of progress in about six weeks, and that the Disarmament Commission would meet upon receipt of such a report.

Pursuant to the above decision, the Sub-Committee met again in London and held eighteen meetings between 19 March and 4 May 1956. The discussions were conducted in private. On 4 May, the Sub-Committee submitted its third report to the Disarmament Commission and released the records of its meetings.

The Disarmament Commission had not met by the terminal date of the present report, but was expected to do so in the near future to consider the third report of its Sub-Committee.

2. Peaceful uses of atomic energy

(*a*) The International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy

By resolution 810 (IX) of 4 December 1954, the General Assembly decided unanimously to hold a conference to explore means of developing the peaceful uses of atomic energy through international co-operation.

The International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy was held in Geneva from 8 to 20 August 1955. Seventy-three States and eight specialized agencies of the United Nations sent delegations to the Conference, the total number of delegates being 1,428. In addition, the Conference was attended by approximately 1,350 observers, principally from academic institutions and from industrial enterprises in many countries. Scientific exhibits were displayed by Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Norway, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

The number of papers submitted greatly exceeded original expectations; 1,132 abstracts and 1,067 full papers from thirty-eight Governments were submitted for consideration by the Conference. Of these, approximately 450 were selected for oral presentation. The United Nations Secretariat, the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization also contributed papers on subjects within their fields of competence.

The Swiss authorities organized the first International Exhibition on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy in the city of Geneva to run simultaneously with the Conference. This Exhibition was devoted to industrial and technical exhibits furnished both by Governments and by private enterprise.

The Conference itself was organized on the basis of an initial series of general sessions which surveyed the main aspects of the peaceful uses of atomic energy, followed by three parallel sets of specialized sessions dealing, broadly speaking, with (1) physics and reactors; (2) chemistry, metallurgy and technology; and (3) medicine, biology and radioactive isotopes. A great deal of important data hitherto restricted for reasons of security was made public for the first time at this Conference. The scope of the discussions covering, as it did, not only the highly technical but also the eco-

nomic aspects of nuclear energy provided, for the first time, a truly comprehensive picture of the world-wide status of the development of nuclear energy, and its future potential.

The Conference was covered by over 900 representatives of public information media. Owing to the highly technical nature of the proceedings, a system of press briefing, in which the chairman and scientific secretaries of each session participated, was established. The full and effective coverage of the Conference in the world press confirmed the efficacy of this method.

The United Nations, in assuming full responsibility for the planning, preparation and conduct of the Conference, sought two basic objectives: (1) to achieve the freest possible discussion, exchange and sharing of general knowledge on the peaceful uses of atomic energy; and (2) to ensure that the proceedings of the Conference would be scientific in the most objective sense and free from all political bias. It was the unanimous view of the participants of the Conference that those objectives were attained.

The Conference was an encouraging beginning for the activities of the United Nations in a new field in which great hopes and expectations for the future may be properly entertained.

The *Proceedings* of the Conference, including all papers submitted and the verbatim records of the sessions, have been published by the United Nations in sixteen printed volumes containing over 8,000 pages. The English version was completed by the end of April 1956. Some volumes of the French, Russian and Spanish versions are already available and the complete editions should be finished in the latter half of 1956.

The scientific secretaries edited some of the papers before and during the Conference itself. Ten of them returned to New York after the Conference to complete the scientific editing of the papers and of the verbatim records of the sessions. The scientific editing was completed by the end of November 1955.

(*b*) Consideration by the General Assembly at its tenth session

By General Assembly resolution 810 (IX), the Secretary-General had been requested to circulate for information a report on the International Conference to all Members of the United Nations. On 14 September 1955, the Secretary-General submitted such a report. Meanwhile, on 18 August, the United States had requested the inclusion in the agenda of the tenth session of an item entitled "Progress in developing international co-operation for the peaceful uses of atomic energy: reports of Governments". The report of the Secretary-General and the item proposed by the United States were included in the agenda as sub-items under the general heading "Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy". The item was referred to the First Committee which considered it at sixteen meetings held between 7 and 28 October.

At the first meeting a joint draft resolution was introduced by the United Kingdom and the United States, with which Australia later associated itself as a co-sponsor. The proposal included provisions whereby the General Assembly would: (1) recall the hope expressed in resolution 810 (IX) that the International Atomic Energy Agency would be established without delay; (2) note with satisfaction that substantial progress had been made towards negotiation of a draft statute establishing the Agency and that the draft had been circulated to Governments for their consideration; (3) express its satisfaction with the proceedings of the Technical Conference and commend the participants for the high scientific quality of papers and discussions and for the spirit of co-operation which prevailed; (4) express its appreciation of the work of the Secretary-General in preparing and organizing the Conference; (5) recommend that a second international conference for the exchange of technical information regarding the peaceful uses of atomic energy should be held in about three years' time; (6) decide that, in order to provide for advance planning for such a conference, the Advisory Committee should be continued; (7) request the Secretary-General, acting upon the advice of the Committee, to determine an appropriate place and date, to issue invitations as for the previous Conference, to prepare and circulate an agenda, and to provide the necessary staff and services; and (8) suggest to the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee that they should consult with the appropriate specialized agencies.

Also at the outset of the discussion a draft resolution concerning the international Conference was submitted by India, in which Yugoslavia, Burma, Egypt, Indonesia and Syria later joined as co-sponsors. The proposal included provisions whereby the General Assembly would (1) express its satisfaction at the impressive results achieved by the Conference in facilitating the free flow of scientific knowledge; (2) believe that the Conference had laid the foundation for the fuller exchange of information on the development of atomic energy; (3) deem it desirable that further international conferences on the peaceful uses of atomic energy should be convened; (4) decide to continue the Advisory Committee; (5) request the Secretary-General, acting upon the advice of the Committee, to make proposals for the convening of future conferences; (6) request the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Committee, to consider the holding of seminars on the various aspects of the peaceful uses of atomic energy and to consider whether measures could usefully be taken to encourage the dissemination of knowledge on the subject; and (7) request the Secretary-General to report on the matters covered under (5) and (6).

At the same time, India, again joined subsequently by Yugoslavia, Burma, Egypt, Indonesia and Syria, submitted another draft resolution which included provisions whereby the General Assembly would: (1) consider that the constitution and functions of the proposed International Atomic Energy Agency should be based upon the consensus of views expressed in the Assembly and the comments of interested Governments and should be approved by the Assembly; (2) decide that the relationship of the Agency with the United Nations should provide for (*a*) submission to the General Assembly of annual reports and other information as required, and (*b*) consideration by the Agency of resolutions of the General Assembly relating to the Agency and submission of reports thereon to the Assembly; and (3) appoint a Committee to implement the purposes of the resolution.

On 11 October, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics introduced a draft resolution which included provisions whereby the General Assembly would: (1) call upon all States to continue their efforts to reach an agreement on the prohibition of atomic weapons;

2) express the hope that an international agency for he peaceful uses of atomic energy would be established vithin the framework of the United Nations at an early ate; (3) consider it desirable that conferences should e convened periodically for the exchange of experi- nce in the use of atomic energy in science, industry, griculture, medicine and other spheres and request the ecretary-General to take steps to convene a conference y 1957; and (4) consider that it would be useful to ound an international periodical organ of atomic scien- ists, devoted to the problems connected with the peace- ul uses of atomic energy, and request the Secretary- General to arrange for the publication of this periodical n 1956.

On 18 October, the USSR added to its proposal pro- visions whereby the General Assembly would: (1) con- sider that it would be useful to convene a conference of experts designated by the Governments concerned for the joint consideration of questions relating to the drafting of the statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency; and (2) decide to continue the Ad- visory Committee established under resolution 810 B (IX).

On 14 October, China proposed an amendment to the draft resolution submitted by Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States recommending that the United Nations in its programmes of assistance give special emphasis to the promotion of the applications of atomic energy.

On 19 October, a revision of the draft resolution sub- mitted by Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States was introduced which was co-sponsored by the following additional Members: Belgium, Brazil, Canada and the Union of South Africa. Subsequently, Israel, Mexico, the Netherlands, Argentina, Norway, Peru, Denmark, Iceland and Sweden also became co- sponsors. The operative part of the revised draft reso- lution dealt separately with international conferences on the peaceful uses of atomic energy and an International Atomic Energy Agency. In the former connexion, the provisions noted above were modified so that (1) the Secretary-General would act in consultation with the appropriate specialized agencies, as well as on the advice of the Advisory Committee, in connexion with future conference arrangements; (2) the specialized agencies would be invited to consult with a view to ensuring proper co-ordination between the proposed second inter- national technical conference and such technical con- ferences as they or their affiliated non-governmental scientific organizations might convene on more special- ized aspects of atomic energy; and (3) the Advisory Committee would be continued in order that it might assist the Secretary-General in carrying out the provi- sions of the resolution. With regard to the Agency, the revised draft resolution added provisions whereby the General Assembly would: (1) recommend that the Gov- ernments sponsoring the Agency should take into ac- count the views expressed during the present session of the Assembly, as well as the comments transmitted directly by Governments, and that they should take all possible measures to establish the Agency without delay; (2) welcome the announced intention of the Govern- ments sponsoring the Agency to invite all Members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies to participate in a conference on the final text of the statute of the Agency; and (3) request the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Advisory Committee, to study the question of the relationship of the Agency to the United Nations and to transmit the results of the study to the Governments sponsoring the Agency before the convening of the conference on the statute.

On 20 October, India submitted amendments to the revised draft resolution having the general effect of dividing the draft resolution into two distinct sections, each with its own preamble. In the first section, con- cerning international conferences, the amendments would: (1) insert a new paragraph in which the Gen- eral Assembly would note the impressive results achieved by the Conference in facilitating the free flow of scientific knowledge relating to atomic energy and in laying the foundation for the fuller exchange of infor- mation on atomic energy development; (2) add a recommendation that seminars on the various aspects of atomic energy should be held and that measures should be taken to encourage the dissemination of knowledge on the subject; (3) remove the provision that the Secretary-General should act in consultation with the specialized agencies in connexion with arrange- ments for a future conference; and (4) include among the matters on which the Advisory Committee might assist the Secretary-General such other tasks and func- tions in the field of the peaceful uses of atomic energy as might become vested in him. In the second section the amendments would: (1) modify the first operative paragraph so that the General Assembly would note that progress had been made towards negotiation for establishing an Agency and that a draft statute had been circulated; (2) add a provision under which the As- sembly would suggest that the group of sponsoring countries should be established on an expanded basis; (3) provide that the establishment of the Agency should be done in accordance with the procedures set out in the resolution; (4) change the terms concerning the conference on the Agency so that its purpose would be to establish the final text of the statute; and (5) add a request that the sponsoring Governments should report to the Assembly as appropriate.

The sponsors of the sixteen-Power draft resolution, joined at this stage by Turkey and Luxembourg, sub- mitted on 25 October a second revision of their pro- posal. In this revision the section concerning inter- national conferences was modified by (1) inserting the provision in the Indian amendments concerning the re- sults achieved by the Conference; and (2) stating that a second conference should be held in two to three years' time. In the section concerning the Agency the revision included the following changes: (1) a paragraph was added whereby the General Assembly would welcome the extension of invitations to the Governments of Bra- zil, Czechoslovakia, India and the USSR to participate as Governments concerned with the present sponsoring Governments in negotiations on the draft statute of the Agency; (2) it was provided that, in taking all meas- ures to establish the Agency without delay, the Govern- ments concerned should bear in mind the provisions of the present resolution; and (3) the Governments con- cerned were requested to report to the Assembly as appropriate. Later, the sponsors orally added a provi- sion suggesting that the Agency, when established, should consider the desirability of arranging for an international periodical devoted to the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

On 26 October, Pakistan and the Philippines sub- mitted an amendment to the eighteen-Power draft reso- lution, recommending that the sponsoring Governments invite a few under-developed countries who might not

at present have atomic materials nor scientific knowledge to participate with them in negotiations.

On the same day, the USSR submitted amendments to the revised eighteen-Power draft resolution which provided that (1) invitations to the proposed second international technical conference would be issued to all States and interested specialized agencies, rather than under the formula followed for the first Conference; (2) invitations to the intended conference on the final text of the statute of the Agency would be extended to all States, rather than to all Members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies; and (3) the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee, in studying the relationship of the Agency to the United Nations, would bear in mind that the Agency would be established within the framework of the United Nations.

At the conclusion of the discussion in the First Committee on 27 October, only the USSR amendments and the eighteen-Power draft resolution were voted upon. The two draft resolutions co-sponsored by India, Yugoslavia, Burma, Egypt, Indonesia and Syria, the USSR draft resolution, the Indian amendments to the eighteen-Power draft resolution, the Chinese amendment and the amendment by Pakistan and the Philippines were not pressed to a vote. The USSR amendments were rejected by votes ranging from 32 to 15, with 10 abstentions, to 40 to 11, with 8 abstentions, and the draft resolution was adopted by 53 votes to none, with 6 abstentions. At the plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 3 December, the resolution recommended by the First Committee was adopted unanimously (resolution 912 (X)).

(*c*) Implementation of General Assembly resolution 912 (X)

In response to paragraph 5 of section I of resolution 912 (X), the Advisory Committee, at its meeting in March 1956, held a preliminary consultation with the Secretary-General on the date, place and nature of the Second International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, and will hold a more detailed discussion of this question at its next meeting in the autumn.

The Advisory Committee devoted most of its March session to a consultation with the Secretary-General on the principles upon which the relationship between the United Nations and the proposed International Atomic Energy Agency should be based. In accordance with paragraph 5 of section II of resolution 912 (X), the results of this study were circulated to Member States of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies on 20 April 1956.

The twelve negotiating Governments unanimously approved a revised draft of the statute of the Agency on 18 April 1956 in Washington. This draft, which has been circulated to Member States of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies, will be discussed by a conference of the States Members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies to be held in late September 1956 at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

3. Effects of atomic radiation

(*a*) Consideration by the General Assembly at its tenth session

On 4 August 1955, the United States requested the inclusion in the agenda of the tenth session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Co-ordination of information relating to the effects of atomic radiation upon human health and safety". In an explanatory memorandum, the United States recognized that there was widespread concern regarding the effects of radiation and stated that a large amount of data relating to the question was already in existence. It suggested that the United Nations was the appropriate agency for the systematic assembly and international dissemination of such data in order to provide all nations with a basis for their own evaluation of the problems of atomic radiation.

On 31 August, India requested the inclusion of an additional item entitled "Dissemination of information on the effects of atomic radiation and on the effects of experimental explosions of thermo-nuclear bombs". In an explanatory memorandum submitted on 16 September, India pointed out that investigations into the hazards accompanying the use of radioactive materials were being conducted independently in different countries. It also noted the divergence of scientific opinion over the possible effects of radioactive materials dissipated throughout the world by experimental detonations. India therefore considered it essential to set up an international organization to collect and co-ordinate the data on the immediate and long-term consequences of nuclear radiation and experimental explosions and to inform the world.

These two items, as parts of a single item under the general heading "Effects of atomic radiation", were referred to the First Committee, which considered them at ten meetings between 31 October and 7 November.

On 1 November, Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America submitted a draft resolution, also co-sponsored by Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, which provided that the General Assembly would: (1) establish a scientific committee consisting of Australia, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, India, Japan, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States, and request those Governments each to designate one scientist to represent them on that committee; (2) request that committee: (*a*) to receive and assemble the following radiological information furnished by Members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies: (i) reports on observed levels of ionizing radiation and radioactivity and (ii) reports on scientific observations and experiments relevant to the effects of ionizing radiation on man and his environment by national scientific bodies or by authorities of national Governments; (*b*) to recommend uniform standards with respect to procedures for sample collection and instrumentation and radiation counting procedures to be used in analyses of samples; (*c*) to assemble the reports on observed radiological levels; (*d*) to review and collate the national reports on scientific observations and experiments, evaluating each report to determine its usefulness for the purposes of the committee; (*e*) to make yearly progress reports if appropriate and to develop a summary of the reports received on radiation levels and radiation effects on man and his environment, together with the evaluations provided for and indications of research projects which might require further study; and (*f*) to transmit from time to time these documents and evaluations to the Secretary-General for dissemination to Members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies; (3) request the Secretary-General to provide appropriate as-

tance to the Committee; (4) call upon all Members the United Nations or of the specialized agencies to -operate in making available reports and studies re- ing to the short-term and long-term effects of ionizing diation upon man and his environment and radiologi- l data collected by them; (5) request the specialized encies to concert with the committee concerning any ork they might be doing or contemplating within the here of the committee's terms of reference, and (6) quest the Secretary-General to invite the Government Japan to nominate a scientific representative to the mmittee.

On 2 November, India presented amendments to the aft resolution which, as revised on 3 November and odified on 7 November, in addition to making certain anges of a drafting nature, provided that: (1) the com- ittee would be called "Special Technical Committee", d its membership would include Egypt and Mexico, ith provision for others, and the members would desig- ate scientists rather than one scientist to represent em on the committee; (2) the committee would act co-operation with the Secretary-General; (3) the urces of information and co-operation and the recipi- nts of the committee's work would not be limited to embers of the United Nations or of the specialized gencies; (4) the committee would receive and assemble adiological information on other relevant matters as ell as the scientific reports provided for; (5) the cri- eria for judging the usefulness of the reports would be eneral; (6) yearly progress reports would be manda- ory; (7) specific reference to an invitation to Japan ould be omitted and the Secretary-General would be equested to take steps to convene the committee; and (8) the General Assembly would decide to transmit to he committee its proceedings on the item.

On 2 November, the USSR presented amendments o the draft resolution which, in addition to inserting in he preamble paragraphs noting that there was no pro- ection from the harmful effects of radiation formed in tomic explosions, and considering that the only way of reeing mankind from the dangers of such radiation was hrough agreement on the prohibition of nuclear weapons and the establishment of international control, would: (1) provide that the General Assembly should call upon States, particularly those possessing nuclear materials and the means of producing nuclear weapons, to continue their efforts towards the earliest possible solution of the question of the prohibition of nuclear weapons, and, as a first step, towards the reaching of an agreement on the cessation of experiments with all types of nuclear weapons; (2) provide that the pro- posed scientific committee should be a committee of the United Nations; (3) include the People's Republic of China and Romania among the members of the com- mittee; (4) ask the committee, as an additional task, to carry out the collection, circulation and distribution of information relating to the problem of protection from the effects of atomic radiation and to the problem of remedies and methods for the treatment of illnesses re- sulting from the effects of such radiation; and (5) delete the references to the Members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies as collaborators with the committee.

On 3 November, Indonesia and Syria submitted an amendment whereby the Assembly would request all the Powers concerned, pending a conclusive report on the effects of atomic radiation, to cease all experimental explosions of all types of nuclear weapons.

On 4 November, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela submitted an amendment whereby Argentina, Belgium, Egypt and Mexico would be added to the membership of the committee.

In response to a request made by India, the Secretary-General, on 2 November, introduced a paper entitled "Certain aspects of the proposed committee on effects of atomic radiation", presenting general observations on mainly administrative aspects of the committee.

In the course of the discussion, the sponsors of the draft resolution amended their proposal so that each Government, while designating one scientist to be its representative on the scientific committee, would be empowered to designate alternates and consultants as appropriate. They also accepted the Indian amendments whereby the submission of yearly progress reports by the committee would be mandatory and the General Assembly would decide to transmit to the committee its proceedings on the item. India then withdrew its amendments, with the exception of those which provided that the sources of information and co-operation and the recipients of the results of the committee's work would not be limited to Members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies.

In the voting in the First Committee, the USSR amendments were rejected. Of the remaining Indian amendments, the one which provided that the Assembly should call upon "all concerned", rather than only Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies, to co-operate in making available reports and studies (clause 4 of the draft resolution), was adopted and the others were rejected. The Indonesian-Syrian amendment was rejected, and the twenty-Power amendment was adopted. The eight-Power draft resolution, as a whole, as amended, was then adopted unanimously.

At the plenary meeting of the Assembly on 3 December, the representative of India introduced the same amendments which had been voted on in the Committee and they were again rejected. The General Assembly then adopted the resolution as recommended by the First Committee (resolution 913 (X)).

(*b*) Implementation of General Assembly resolution 913 (X)

The Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation held its first session at Headquarters from 14 to 23 March. It elected as its chairman Dr. C. E. Eddy of Australia. The meetings of the Committee were attended by representatives of the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization.

The Committee discussed the scope and organization of its work and received reports from working parties under the following headings: (1) genetics; (2) the effects of irradiation by internally absorbed isotopes and the effects of external radiation; (3) natural radiation background; (4) exposures during medical procedures and occupational exposure; (5) environmental contamination.

The Committee considered the information required for its study of the levels of ionizing radiation and radio-

activity in the environment and their effects upon man and other living organisms and recommended the collection of material available from Governments under the above headings. It directed its Secretary to send out a detailed request for such information to Governments forthwith. Some of this information has been requested by 1 August 1956 in order that it may be used as a basis for the Committee's discussions at the next session.

In a resolution on the organization of its work, the Committee recognized that it entails two phases, namely (*a*) the collection, collation and distribution to the Committee of data received from Governments of Member States of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies; and (*b*) the evaluation of such information. It has requested the Secretary-General to arrange for a suitable number of scientists working in the fields of interest of the Committee to be added temporarily to the Secretariat who will collect, collate and co-ordinate a preliminary review of national reports and other relevant material received from the specialized agencies in preparation for the meetings of the Committee. Three such scientific secretaries have so far been recruited and have begun work. The Secretariat has also been asked to make preparations for the yearly progress reports and summary reports of the Committee required by the General Assembly and to submit proposals to the Committee at its next session on research projects which might require further study. The next session of the Committee is to convene on 22 October 1956.

4. Admission of new Members

(*a*) Report of the Committee of Good Offices

By resolution 817 (IX) of 23 November 1954, the General Assembly sent back to the Security Council the pending applications for membership in the Organization, for further consideration and positive recommendations; requested the Committee of Good Offices established under resolution 718 (VIII) to continue its efforts; and requested the Council and the Committee to report to the General Assembly during the ninth session if possible and, in any event, during the tenth session.

On 19 September 1955, the Committee of Good Offices transmitted a preliminary report to the General Assembly. Reviewing the efforts it had made in response to the Assembly's request, the Committee noted that the permanent members of the Security Council, although continuing to adhere to their positions on the question of admission, had conveyed the impression that such adherence was not necessarily immutable. It was possible that developments in the course of the next few months might lead to further improvements in the international atmosphere. The Committee hoped that the deliberations of the Council, when that organ met to discuss the report requested by resolution 817 (IX), would provide an opportunity to renew the search for a solution of the problem; the Committee accordingly expressed its readiness to continue its efforts during the tenth session of the Assembly.

(*b*) Adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 918 (X)

At the outset of its tenth session, the General Assembly also had before it an application from Spain dated 23 September 1955 for admission to membership in the United Nations.

On 30 September, the Assembly decided to include in its agenda the item "Admission of new Members: reports of the Security Council and of the Committee of Good Offices", and referred it to the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee for consideration and report.

The Committee devoted eight meetings between and 7 December to consideration of the item. At the first meeting, a draft resolution was submitted by Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Yemen and Yugoslavia. It provided that the General Assembly, believing that a broader representation in the membership of the United Nations would enable the Organization to play a more effective role in the current international situation (1) would express appreciation of the work and efforts of the Committee of Good Offices; (2) request the Security Council to consider, in the light of the general opinion in favour of the widest possible membership of the United Nations, the pending applications for membership of all those countries about which no problem of unification arose; and (3) would further request the Council to report on those applications to the Assembly during the tenth session.

An amendment by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to list the States referred to was later withdrawn in view of a revision of the draft resolution to cover "all those eighteen countries" about which no problem of unification arose. A sub-amendment by Cuba, increasing the list to twenty and adding the names of the Republics of Korea and Viet-Nam, was likewise withdrawn after the withdrawal of the USSR amendment.

Cuba also submitted a number of amendments to the draft resolution, providing for the deletion of certain paragraphs of the preamble and of the operative part so that the draft resolution would, *inter alia*, request the Council, in the light of the general opinion that the United Nations should have the widest possible membership of States possessing the qualifications required by Article 4 of the Charter, to consider the pending applications in accordance with the principles established by the International Court of Justice in its advisory opinion of 28 May 1948.

The majority of speakers in the debate expressed support for the draft resolution. They stressed the importance of having the widest possible membership of the United Nations, as well as the growing realization that the question of admission could be solved only by means of a compromise. It was also emphasized that the United Nations should be a truly representative Organization in which different social and political systems could exist side by side. Adoption of the draft resolution would not involve any repudiation of the principles of Article 4. Finally, the sponsors of the draft resolution pointed out that the reference therein to the problems of unification referred to unification for purposes of membership in the United Nations only, and was not intended to exclude applicants for whom the problem arose in other contexts.

One representative supporting the draft resolution felt that its advantages outweighed its disadvantages,

although the proposed solution was tantamount to doing away with Article 4. Others expressed reservations concerning particular applicants or concerning their attitude on each application should a recommendation be received from the Council.

Some representatives indicated that they would abstain in the voting on the draft resolution because of doubts as to whether it was in conformity with the provisions of Article 4.

Two representatives opposed the draft resolution on the ground that it constituted a "package deal" which its proponents frankly conceded to be contrary to the Charter and to the advisory opinion of the Court, and which amounted to unconditional surrender to the USSR. The only justification that had been advanced was that of expediency, but that argument was open to grave doubt. These representatives held that the five applicant People's Democracies did not satisfy the conditions required for admission and that the Mongolian People's Republic, in particular, could not be regarded as an independent State. They also declared that the draft resolution would exclude the Republics of Korea and Viet-Nam from membership.

After the amendments submitted by Cuba had been rejected by a series of roll-call votes, the draft resolution was adopted as a whole by a roll-call vote of 52 to 2, with 5 abstentions.

The General Assembly considered the draft resolution recommended by the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee on 8 December 1955, and adopted it (resolution 918 (X)) by a roll-call vote of 52 to 2, with 5 abstentions.

(*c*) Consideration by the Security Council

On 10 December 1955, the Security Council adopted an agenda listing under the general item "Admission of new Members" (1) the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 8 December; (2) General Assembly resolution 817 (IX) requesting the Council to report on the pending applications for membership; and (3) the application of Spain for membership.

After discussion at that meeting and at meetings on 13 December, the Council decided, by 8 votes to 1 (China), with 2 abstentions (Belgium, United States of America), that a draft resolution submitted by Brazil and New Zealand should have priority over all other draft resolutions before the Council. This draft resolution provided that the Council, having considered separately the applications of eighteen countries, which were listed in the text, would recommend to the Assembly the admission of those countries. In connexion with this proposal, the President of the Council, speaking as the representative of New Zealand, explained that, while the procedure contemplated by his delegation involved a separate vote on each applicant, it believed that there must also be a vote on the group of applicants as a whole.

The other proposals before the Council at the time it decided to give priority to the above draft resolution were as follows: (1) thirteen draft resolutions submitted by China recommending respectively the admission of Italy, Japan, Spain, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Viet-Nam, Cambodia, Laos, Portugal, Ceylon, Jordan, Libya, Austria and Ireland; (2) eighteen draft resolutions submitted by the USSR recommending the admission of Albania, the Mongolian People's Republic, Jordan, Portugal, Ireland, Hungary, Italy, Austria, Romania, Bulgaria, Finland, Ceylon, Nepal, Libya, Cambodia, Japan, Laos and Spain; (3) a draft resolution submitted by the USSR concerning the procedure to be followed and providing that the Assembly should complete action on each recommendation by the Council before the latter voted on the next application. This draft resolution was not pressed by the USSR following a debate in the course of which the USSR representative noted that many members of the Council supported the procedure proposed by Brazil and New Zealand, whose draft resolution, in the understanding of the USSR delegation, represented a single entity to be considered by the General Assembly in that sense. If the Assembly amended the draft resolution in any way, the Council's recommendation would lose its meaning as an entity and would consequently have to be referred back to it for reconsideration.

The representative of China said that the draft resolution proposed by Brazil and New Zealand appeared to be a legalization of the "package deal", particularly if the Council should accept the interpretation of the USSR. He submitted an amendment providing for the addition of the names of the Republics of Korea and Viet-Nam to the list contained in the draft resolution. The President, speaking as the representative of New Zealand, said that, if the Chinese amendment were adopted, the Council would not be acting in accordance with the Assembly's request, and this would result in diminishing the chances of success. The USSR representative considered that the amendment was designed to obstruct a decision by the Council, since it would radically alter the meaning of the joint draft resolution. Other members of the Council stated that they would vote in favour of the amendment and noted that the Council, being an autonomous organ, was not bound by resolutions of the General Assembly.

The President, proposing a paragraph by paragraph vote, stated his intention to put the Chinese amendment to the vote immediately before the vote on the relevant paragraph of the joint draft resolution. The representative of the USSR objected, and proposed that the two applications mentioned in the Chinese amendment should be voted upon at the point in the list of countries which they occupied according to the chronological order of submission of applications. This proposal was rejected by 8 votes to 1 (USSR), with 2 abstentions (Iran and Turkey). The Council then voted paragraph by paragraph on the joint draft resolution and on the Chinese amendment thereto. The first paragraph and the first part of the second paragraph were adopted. The Chinese amendment was then put to the vote, and the proposals to include the Republics of Korea and Viet-Nam received in each case 9 votes to 1 (USSR), with 1 abstention (New Zealand). The amendment was not carried since the negative vote was cast by a permanent member of the Council.

The voting on the list of countries in the joint draft resolution was as follows: Albania, 7 votes in favour, with 4 abstentions (Belgium, China, France, United States of America); the Mongolian People's Republic, 8 in favour, 1 against (China), with 2 abstentions (Belgium, United States of America); Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria, in each case, 9 votes in favour, with 2 abstentions (China, United States of America); Jordan, Ireland, Portugal, Italy, Austria, Finland, Ceylon, Nepal, Libya, Cambodia, Japan and Laos, in each case, 10 votes in favour, 1 against (USSR); Spain, 9 votes in favour, 1 against (USSR), with 1 abstention (Belgium). Since fourteen negative votes had been cast by

permanent members (China in the case of the Mongolian People's Republic, and the USSR in the case of the other thirteen), fourteen of the applicants were not included. The paragraph, so amended, received 1 vote in favour (USSR), and 4 against (Brazil, China, Peru, Turkey), with 6 abstentions. The remainder of the draft resolution and the proposal as a whole were consequently not put to the vote.

At a meeting of the Council held on 14 December, the representative of the USSR declared that his delegation wished to withdraw the negative votes cast previously with respect to a number of States and that it would vote in favour of sixteen of the eighteen applicants listed in the draft resolution sponsored by Brazil and New Zealand. The question of the admission of the Mongolian People's Republic and of Japan would be deferred until the next session of the General Assembly. He submitted a draft resolution similar in terms to the one sponsored by Brazil and New Zealand, but recommending to the General Assembly the admission of sixteen countries. The representative of the United States proposed the addition of Japan to these sixteen States; this amendment received 10 votes in favour and 1 against (USSR), and was not adopted since the negative vote was that of a permanent member of the Council. The Council voted on the USSR draft resolution paragraph by paragraph, and voted separately on the inclusion of each applicant. The inclusion of Albania was approved by 8 votes, with 3 abstentions (Belgium, China, United States of America). The inclusion of Jordan, Ireland, Portugal, Italy, Austria, Finland, Ceylon, Nepal, Libya, Cambodia and Laos was in each case unanimously approved. The inclusion of Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria was in each case approved by 9 votes, with 2 abstentions (China, United States of America). The inclusion of Spain was approved by 10 votes, with 1 abstention (Belgium). The USSR draft resolution as a whole was approved by 8 votes, with 3 abstentions (Belgium, China, United States of America).

(*d*) Consideration by the General Assembly of the recommendations of the Security Council

Immediately following the decision by the Security Council to recommend sixteen applicant States for membership in the United Nations, the General Assembly held a plenary meeting that same evening to consider the Council's recommendations. A draft resolution submitted by forty-two Member States provided that the Assembly, having examined the application of each State whose admission had been recommended by the Council, would decide to admit to membership the sixteen countries listed therein. In the ensuing voting (1) Albania was admitted by 48 votes to 3, with 5 abstentions; (2) Jordan by 55 votes to none, with 1 abstention; (3) Ireland, Portugal, Italy, Austria, Finland, Ceylon, Nepal, Cambodia and Laos were admitted unanimously; (4) Hungary and Romania were admitted by 49 votes to 2, with 5 abstentions; (5) Bulgaria by 50 votes to 2, with 5 abstentions; (6) Libya by 56 votes to none, with 1 abstention; and (7) Spain by 55 votes to none, with 2 abstentions. The draft resolution was not put to the vote as a whole, the President declaring it adopted in the absence of objection; the representative of Cuba, however, asked that his delegation's abstention be recorded.

At the next meeting held on the following morning, certain delegations, which had been unable to be represented at the previous meeting, asked that their votes should be recorded as follows: (1) Paraguay—in favour of the admission of Jordan, Ireland, Portugal, Italy, Austria, Finland, Ceylon, Nepal, Libya, Cambodia, Laos and Spain, and abstaining with regard to Albania, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria; (2) Ethiopia and Haiti—in favour of the admission of all sixteen applicants.

(*e*) Further consideration by the Security Council of the applications of Japan and the Mongolian People's Republic

On 15 December, the Security Council considered a draft resolution which had been submitted by the United States of America at the previous meeting, according to which the Council would recommend that Japan should be admitted at the eleventh session of the General Assembly. The Council also had before it a draft resolution submitted by the USSR providing that the Mongolian People's Republic and Japan should both be recommended for admission at the eleventh session. The first part of the United States draft resolution, recommending the admission of Japan, received 10 votes in favour and 1 against (USSR), and was not adopted, since the negative vote was that of a permanent member. The remainder of the proposal, specifying admission at the eleventh session of the Assembly, was not put to the vote. The USSR draft resolution received 1 vote in favour, with 10 abstentions, and was not adopted.

The United Kingdom then submitted a draft resolution according to which the Council, after noting that Japan was fully qualified for membership, would express the hope that it would soon be admitted to the United Nations. At a further meeting held on 21 December, the USSR submitted an amendment providing for the inclusion in the draft resolution of the Mongolian People's Republic. The amendment received 1 vote in favour, with 10 abstentions, and was not adopted. The Council then agreed to a United Kingdom proposal that consideration of the United Kingdom draft resolution should be adjourned.

(*f*) Application of the Sudan

By a letter dated 30 January 1956, the Foreign Minister of the Sudan submitted his country's application for admission to membership in the United Nations and enclosed a declaration of acceptance of the obligations contained in the Charter.

The Security Council took up the question at a meeting held on 6 February, when it had before it a joint draft resolution by France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America recommending the admission of the Sudan. The draft resolution was adopted unanimously at the same meeting. On 16 May, the President of the Security Council communicated the recommendation of the Council to the President of the General Assembly.

5. The Palestine question

(*a*) Egyptian and Israel complaints concerning incidents in the Gaza area

On 30 and 31 August 1955, the representative of Israel informed the Security Council of new and grave outbreaks of violence in the Gaza strip, starting on 22

August, which he attributed to the deliberate policy of the Egyptian Government. As a result of that violence, a number of Israelis were killed and wounded.

On 6 September, the representative of Egypt informed the Security Council that since 22 August 1955 Israel armed forces had embarked upon vast military operations and, on 31 August, "committed the most flagrant incident since the conclusion of the General Armistice Agreement" in the area of Khan Yunis which resulted in the death of ten Egyptian soldiers and twenty-five refugees, and the injury of nineteen.

A report dated 5 September from the Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization stressed that a repetition of the incidents could be avoided only if the forces of the opposing sides were separated by an effective physical barrier along the Demarcation Line.

The Security Council met on 8 September 1955 to consider how to effect cessation of hostilities and measures to prevent further incidents in the Gaza area. After the discussion of the question and interventions by the parties, the Security Council unanimously adopted a draft resolution submitted by France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America by which, among other things, the Council called upon both parties forthwith to take all steps necessary to bring about order and tranquillity in the area, and in particular to desist from further acts of violence and to continue the cease-fire in full force and effect; endorsed the view of the Chief of Staff that the armed forces of both parties should be clearly and effectively separated by measures such as those which he had proposed; declared that freedom of movement must be afforded to the United Nations observers in the area to enable them to fulfill their functions; called upon both parties to appoint representatives to meet with the Chief of Staff and to co-operate fully with him to these ends.

(*b*) Incidents on Lake Tiberias

On 13 December 1955, the representative of Syria informed the Security Council of a large-scale attack launched on the night of 11-12 December by Israel armed forces in the area lying to the east of Lake Tiberias in which some thirty-seven Syrian soldiers and twelve civilians were killed, eight other soldiers wounded and thirty taken prisoner, and requested the convening of the Security Council to consider the matter and take the measures necessary to meet the situation.

The Security Council discussed the question at eight meetings held between 16 December 1955 and 19 January 1956. The representatives of Israel and Syria were invited to take part in the discussion.

On 16 December, the representative of Syria declared that this attack had no justification since the situation in the area had been relatively calm for the past two years. He pointed out that the principle of retaliation advocated by Israel had been expressly rejected by the Council. The Council should take deterrent measures against Israel, such as the adoption of economic sanctions and the expulsion of Israel from the United Nations.

The representative of Israel stated that Israel forces had undertaken the operation to avert further Syrian aggression and declared that this particular incident was the consequence of the policy of harassment, initiated by Syrian artillery posts established close to the lake's borders against Israel fishing and police boats. Furthermore, on 22 December, the representative of Israel stated that evidence found on Syrian prisoners proved that Syrian outposts off the north-eastern shore of Lake Tiberias were instructed to fire upon Israeli boats approaching within a limit of 250-400 metres of the shore. He stressed that all of Lake Tiberias, together with a ten-metre strip on its north-eastern shore formed part of Israel's territory.

In a report dated 15 December and a supplement dated 30 December 1955, the Chief of Staff stated that Israel had linked the Tiberias attack with the Syrian shelling of Israel fishing boats and their police escort boats on Lake Tiberias. On the other hand, Syria stressed that the use by Israel of armed police boats was prohibited by the General Armistice Agreement in this part of Lake Tiberias which was a "Defensive Area". That might explain, though it did not excuse, the standing Syrian orders to fire at Israel military boats approaching within a range of 250-400 metres from the shore. Nevertheless, there was a striking disparity between the scale of retaliation and the provocation which had been cited by the Israel Government. Finally, he made some practical suggestions to prevent further incidents arising from fishing activities on Lake Tiberias.

On 22 December 1955, Syria submitted a draft resolution by which, among other things, the Council would: (1) condemn Israel for the attack which was carried out by its military forces on 12 December 1955 against the territory and armed forces of Syria; (2) decide that the attack constituted a violation of the Council's resolution of 15 July 1948; (3) decide further that the attack constituted aggression under Article 39 of the Charter; (4) call upon the Members of the United Nations to adopt the necessary measures for applying economic sanctions against Israel; (5) decide to expel Israel from the United Nations Organization under Article 6 of the Charter for her persistent violation of the principles of the Charter; and (6) decide that Israel should pay adequate compensation for the loss and damage to life and property caused by the said attack.

By a letter dated 9 January 1956, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics requested the President of the Security Council, in accordance with rule 38 of the rules of procedure, to put to the vote the Syrian draft resolution, with the deletion of operative paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 and their replacement by the following: "(3) calls upon Israel to take all necessary measures to prevent such actions;" and "(4) warns Israel that any further recurrence of such action will bring about a situation requiring the Security Council to consider the question of the application of Article 39 of the United Nations Charter".

On 11 January 1956, France, the United Kingdom and the United States submitted a draft resolution, according to which the Security Council, among other things, after noting the report of the Chief of Staff that the Israel action was a deliberate violation of the provisions of the General Armistice Agreement, including those relating to the Demilitarized Zone, and noting also from the reports of the Chief of Staff that there had been interference by the Syrian authorities with

Israel activities on Lake Tiberias, in contravention of the terms of the General Armistice Agreement between Israel and Syria, would: (1) remind Israel that the Council had already condemned military action in breach of the General Armistice Agreements, whether or not undertaken by way of retaliation, and had called upon Israel to take effective measures to prevent such actions; (2) condemn the attack of 11 December as a flagrant violation of the cease-fire provisions of its resolution of 15 July 1948, of the terms of the General Armistice Agreement between Israel and Syria, and of Israel's obligations under the Charter; (3) express its grave concern at the failure of Israel to comply with its obligations; (4) call upon the Government of Israel to do so in the future, in default of which the Council would have to consider what further measures were required to maintain or restore peace; (5) call upon the parties to comply with their obligations under article 5 of the General Armistice Agreement to respect the Armistice Demarcation Line and the Demilitarized Zone; (6) request the Chief of Staff to pursue his suggestions for improving the situation in the area of Lake Tiberias and to report to the Council as appropriate on the success of his efforts; and (7) call upon both parties to co-operate with the Chief of Staff in this and all other respects, to carry out the provisions of the General Armistice Agreement in good faith, and in particular to make full use of the Mixed Armistice Commission's machinery in the interpretation and application of its provisions.

On 12 January 1956, Iran submitted the following amendments to the three-Power draft resolution: (1) to delete the paragraph of the preamble concerning Syrian interference in Lake Tiberias; (2) to delete the paragraph concerning the further measures that the Council would have to consider to maintain or restore the peace and replace it by the following: "declares that the commission of such actions in the future will constitute a breach of the peace within the meaning of Article 39 of the Charter, requiring consideration by the Security Council of the measures provided for in Chapter VII of the Charter"; (3) to delete the last paragraph concerning the co-operation between the parties and the Chief of Staff; and (4) to add the following new paragraph: "decides that Israel should pay adequate compensation for the loss of and damage to life and property caused by the attack".

The three-Power draft resolution was revised twice by its sponsors to include provisions by which the Council would (1) hold that the Syrian interference with Israeli activities on Lake Tiberias reported by the Chief of Staff in no way justified the Israeli action; and (2) call upon the parties to arrange with the Chief of Staff for an immediate exchange of all military prisoners.

On 18 January, Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution by which, among other things, the Security Council, after recalling its previous condemnations of retaliatory actions, as expressed in its resolutions of 24 November 1953 and 29 March 1955, and recalling that the Government of Israel had previously been called upon to take effective measures to prevent military actions in breach of the General Armistice Agreement and expressing its grave concern at the failure of Israel to comply with these requests, would, *inter alia* (1) condemn the attack of 11-12 December as a flagrant violation of the cease-fire provisions of its resolution of 15 July 1948, of the Armistice Agreement between Syria and Israel, and of Israel's obligations under the Charter; (2) call upon Israel to refrain from such military actions in the future; (3) consider that an established violation of the Armistice Agreement entailed payment of compensation by the party responsible, and that therefore in this case Syria was entitled to compensation; and (4) request the Chief of Staff to take appropriate steps for the release of prisoners taken in this action.

On the same day, Iran submitted the following amendments to the revised three-Power resolution: (1) in the paragraph of the preamble concerning Syrian interference on Lake Tiberias, after the words "noting also", replace the words "from the reports of the Chief of Staff that there has been", with the words "without prejudice to the ultimate rights, claims and positions of the parties that reference had been made in the reports of the Chief of Staff to"; (2) in paragraph 7 of the operative part, after the words "in the area of Lake Tiberias", insert the words "without prejudice to the rights, claims and positions of the parties"; (3) insert a new paragraph reading: "Calls upon the Government of Israel to release forthwith all Syrian military personnel in its custody".

The sponsors of the three-Power draft resolution agreed to add the words "without prejudice to the ultimate rights, claims and positions of the parties", to be inserted in the paragraph concerning Syrian interference on Lake Tiberias. They accepted also the second Iranian amendment, and modified the paragraph concerning the exchange of prisoners to read "Calls upon the parties to arrange with the Chief of Staff for an immediate exchange of all military prisoners". Following a suggestion from the USSR, the sponsors agreed to add the words "under the Charter" in operative paragraph 5 after the words "to consider what further measures".

In the course of the discussion, members of the Security Council condemned the attack launched by Israel against Syria on 11 December, criticized Israel's policy of retaliation and warned Israel that another transgression would compel the Council to consider what further measures under the Charter were required to maintain or restore the peace. The United Kingdom, France, China, Australia and Cuba said that while according to the report of the Chief of Staff there had undoubtedly been illegal Syrian interference with Israel activities in the area of Lake Tiberias previous to the present incident, that did not justify Israel's attack on 11 December. The USSR, Iran and Yugoslavia stated that the Council would not be justified in shifting some of the blame for the Tiberias incident to Syria, even in a disguised form, through inclusion in the draft resolution of a reference to Syrian interference in the area of Lake Tiberias, since there was no confirmation in the report of the Chief of Staff of such interference previous to the presently debated incidents. The representative of the USSR further noted that the question of compensation was ignored in the draft resolution although the majority of the Council's members did not question Syria's right to such compensation. The representatives of the United Kingdom, the United States, France, Belgium, Cuba and Peru were unable to support any proposal on this point because of the legal and practical difficulties involved in the Council applying the principle equitably and enforcing it on the parties concerned. The representative of Iran, while not pressing his amendment concerning this point in

rder to help achieve unanimity, stressed, however, that is delegation had no doubt as to the responsibility f Israel for the attack of 11 December, and said that hoped that Israel would of its own volition propose o pay appropriate compensation, as had been suggested y the representative of China.

After a brief discussion as to the order in which the raft resolutions before the Council were to be voted pon, the Council decided, by 8 votes to 2, with 1 bstention, to grant priority in the voting to the three-Power draft resolution as revised on 18 January. On 9 January, the three-Power draft resolution was put o the vote and adopted unanimously.

(c) Status of compliance given to the General Armistice Agreements and the resolutions of the Security Council adopted during the past year

By a letter dated 20 March 1956, the representative of the United States requested the President of the Security Council to call an early meeting of the Council to consider the following agenda item: "The Palestine question: status of compliance given to the General Armistice Agreements and the resolutions of the Security Council adopted during the past year". The letter added that the Government of the United States had become increasingly concerned over the developments in the Palestine area which might endanger the maintenance of international peace and security. Information relating to the build-up of armed forces on either side of the Armistice Demarcation Lines had led the United States to believe that the parties might not be fully complying with the provisions of their Armistice Agreements. Despite the earnest efforts of the Chief of Staff, the parties had not agreed to proposals which he had put forward to them on his own initiative or as a result of the Council's resolutions of 30 March 1955, 8 September 1955 and 19 January 1956.

The Security Council discussed the question at six meetings held between 26 March and 4 April 1956. The representatives of Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria took part in the discussion.

On 21 March 1956, the United States submitted a draft resolution according to which the Security Council, recalling its resolutions of 30 March 1955, 8 September 1955 and 19 January 1956, recalling that in each of these resolutions the Chief of Staff and the parties concerned were requested by the Council to undertake certain specific steps for the purpose of ensuring that the tensions along the Armistice Lines should be reduced, and noting with grave concern that despite the efforts of the Chief of Staff the proposed steps had not been carried out, would: (1) consider that the situation now prevailing between the parties concerning the enforcement of the Armistice Agreements and the compliance given to the above-mentioned resolutions of the Council was such that its continuation was likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security; (2) request the Secretary-General to undertake, as a matter of urgent concern, a survey of the various aspects of enforcement of and compliance with the four General Armistice Agreements and the Council's resolutions under reference; (3) request the Secretary-General to arrange with the parties for the adoption of any measures which after discussion with the parties and with the Chief of Staff he considered would reduce existing tensions along the Armistice Demarcation Lines, including the following points: (*a*) withdrawal of their forces from the Armistice Demarcation Lines; (*b*) full freedom of movement for observers along the Armistice Demarcation Lines and in the Demilitarized Zones and in the Defensive Areas; (*c*) establishment of local arrangements for the prevention of incidents and the prompt detection of any violations of the Armistice Agreements; (4) call upon the parties to the Armistice Agreements to co-operate with the Secretary-General in the implementation of this resolution; and (5) request the Secretary-General to report to the Council in his discretion but not later than one month from the date of the adoption of the resolution on the implementation given to it in order to assist the Council in considering what further action might be required.

The representative of the United States, in introducing the resolution on 26 March, declared that the present alarming situation challenged the United Nations again to find new means of arresting the present grave trend in Palestine. His Government believed that in the first instance the Organization's efforts should be concentrated on full compliance with the Armistice Agreements by Israel and the Arab States and on the carrying out in detail of the Council's resolutions of 30 March and 8 September 1955 and 19 January 1956.

The United States initiative was welcomed and supported by the representatives of France, Australia, Peru, the United Kingdom, Iran, Cuba, Belgium and China.

During the discussion the representatives of the Arab States sought clarification of certain parts of the draft resolution. The representative of Egypt asked for clarification regarding paragraph 3 of the operative part of the draft resolution and wanted to be assured that all the proposals were within the framework of the Armistice Agreements. He pointed out that operative paragraph 3 (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) were not applicable to all Armistice Agreements. Operative paragraph 5 also required clarification as regarded the further action the Council would take after it had considered the Secretary-General's report. The representative of Syria, while welcoming a survey of the state of compliance with the Armistice Agreements and the resolutions of the Security Council under reference, sought clarification on the scope of the Secretary-General's assignment. His Government was interested to know the nature of the "measures" to reduce existing tensions mentioned in operative paragraph 3. He asked what the intention was behind the phraseology of operative paragraph 3 (*a*), and whether the "arrangements" mentioned in sub-paragraph (*c*) of the same paragraph would be in the nature of agreements or would mean "added forces and machinery". He added that operative paragraph 5 requested the Secretary-General "to report to the Council in his discretion but no later than one month . . .", and wondered whether the discretion of the Secretary-General was meant to apply to the timing or the nature of the report.

The representative of the United States, in response to the questions raised during the discussion, stated that securing compliance with the General Armistice Agreements and the Council resolutions under reference was necessary to relieve tension and promote peace. The draft resolution envisaged that the Secretary-General should arrange, after discussion with the parties and the Chief of Staff, for measures entirely

within the framework of the General Armistice Agreements and the resolutions under reference. The references in the draft resolution to the Demilitarized Zones and Defensive Areas were those defined in the Armistice Agreements. The various aspects of compliance with the Armistice Agreements which the Secretary-General was being requested to survey referred only to matters which would come within the natural purview of the armistice machinery and the Truce Supervision Organization. The arrangements referred to in paragraph 3 (*c*) would be arrangements as agreed between the parties and the Secretary-General. He added that further enumeration of problems or measures which the Secretary-General and the parties together might wish to deal with was neither necessary nor desirable in the context of the clear understanding that the Secretary-General's mission was governed by the Security Council resolutions and the Armistice Agreements. The draft resolution requested the Secretary-General to report not later than one month from the date of its adoption, but he might report sooner if he considered that desirable. In conclusion, he said that in the light of the Secretary-General's report and the situation then prevailing the Council would have to consider whether any further action was required.

At the 720th meeting of the Security Council held on 3 April, the representative of Israel said that although it was necessary to do more than what was envisaged in the draft resolution to preserve security in the Middle East, he felt that the resolution might well serve as a valuable contribution. Israel advocated early measures to restore the operation of the Armistice Agreements to their full integrity. He further outlined a number of problems arising from imperfections in the observance of the General Armistice Agreements which his Government would be prepared to bring to the attention of the Secretary-General. He added that for the time being he reserved his Government's position as to the situation which might arise if the general balance of that draft resolution were to be adversely affected.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics said that he had no objection to the idea expressed in the United States draft resolution, provided that it was basically acceptable to all parties concerned. He added that all measures to relieve the existing tensions in the Palestine area should be carried out by agreement with the parties concerned and with due regard to their interests. He stressed this provision because of the increasing tendency of certain Western Powers, on the pretext of preventing war, to plan armed intervention in the area in violation of the sovereign rights of the Arab States. He said that no decisions affecting peace and security in that area should be taken outside the United Nations. He considered that the United States draft resolution could be improved and he therefore submitted the following amendments: (1) in the first paragraph of the preamble, mention also the Security Council resolutions of 24 November 1953 and 29 March 1955; (2) in operative paragraph 1 replace the words "such that its continuance is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security" by the words "unsatisfactory"; (3) in the second line of paragraph 3, replace the words "after discussion" by the words "after concordance"; and in paragraph 3 (*b*) delete the words "and in the defensive areas".

The representative of Egypt expressed his satisfaction with the United States clarifications of its draft resolution and stated that Egypt was ready to cooperate with the Secretary-General in his mission. The representative of Syria stated that the main object of the Secretary-General's mission, as he understood it, was not just to make an inquiry but to find ways and means of implementing the Armistice Agreements. It was clear to him now that the terms of reference contained in the draft resolution were within the framework of the Armistice Agreements and the Truce Supervision Organization.

On 4 April, the Council proceeded to vote on the United States draft resolution and on the amendments submitted to it by the USSR. All the amendments put to the vote were rejected, and the United States draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

The Secretary-General, in a statement he made following the adoption of the resolution, said that he shared the grave concern of the Council about the problems of the Middle East and felt that, under the circumstances, he should not hesitate to assume the responsibility which the Council had wished to put on his office. The specific responsibility placed on him by the request neither detracted from nor added to the authority of the Secretary-General under the Charter. He expressed the trust that all those interested in a good outcome of the efforts but who were not parties to the conflict would assist the parties and himself by restraint in word and action.

(*d*) Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to the Security Council's resolution of 4 April 1956

Following the adoption by the Council of its resolution of 4 April 1956, the Secretary-General left for the Middle East on 6 April for consultation with the Governments concerned on the questions raised in that resolution. He visited the countries concerned from 10 April to 3 May 1956, and in that period transmitted to the Security Council texts of communications relating to the negotiations that passed between him and the authorities in Egypt and Israel (S/3584, S/3586 and S/3587), as well as a progress report (S/3594) on his mission. On 9 May, he submitted his report (S/3596) to the Council.

In his report of 2 May, the Secretary-General explained that, in addition to surveying and reporting on the state of compliance with the four General Armistice Agreements and the resolutions referred to in the Council's resolution of 4 April and arranging with the parties for the adoption of measures to reduce tensions along the Armistice Demarcation Lines, he regarded his mandate to include negotiation on his part to get the parties to re-establish fullest possible compliance with the Armistice Agreements. In such effort the basic requirement was that all parties concerned should reaffirm their obligations to observe a cease-fire and carry out steps successfully to maintain it. The Secretary-General reported that, during the period of his stay in the Middle East, his negotiations had in all cases been concluded with positive results.

The Secretary-General, in his report of 9 May, gave a full account of the outcome of his mission, with reference to the terms of his mandate as contained in the Council's resolution of 4 April. By way of general observations, he noted that the cause for the present state of non-compliance was not an unwillingness on the part of Governments to carry out their obligations, but

political and practical circumstances and, to a measure, uncertainty as to the scope of the obligations under the Armistice Agreements. It was essential, therefore, among other things, to eliminate to all possible extent the uncertainty concerning the scope of the obligations. The very logic of the Armistice Agreements showed that infringements of other articles could not serve as a justification for an infringement of the cease-fire article. Compliance with the cease-fire article could be conditioned only by similar compliance of the other party. The Secretary-General, therefore, asked the Governments concerned for assurances—which he received in every case—that they would observe the obligations under the cease-fire clause unconditionally, provided the other party complied with that same clause, reserving only their right to self-defense under Article 51 of the Charter.

The Secretary-General further noted that all concerned having agreed that the target for the present effort should be general and full compliance with the Armistice Agreements in their entirety, and with, further, the acceptance of the cease-fire clauses as establishing independent obligations within the framework of the various Agreements, a basis was laid for the study of a balanced return to the full implementation of other clauses, and—through that process and thereafter—for the protection of compliance. In his general observations, the Secretary-General also touched upon two other questions of general significance. Firstly, as regards the status of the Truce Supervision Organization and its functions, following a study with all the Governments concerned, they had stated that, on the basis of the Armistice Agreements and the Council resolution of 11 August 1949, it was their intention to consider favourably proposals by the Chief of Staff concerning the activities of the observers aiming at facilitating compliance with the General Armistice Agreements. This should render possible sufficient freedom of action and movement for the observers as lay, in his view, within the terms of the Armistice Agreements and Security Council decisions. In specific cases and for specific regions, arrangements for the freedom of action and movement for the observers had been agreed upon with the Governments concerned, an account of which was included in the report. Secondly, as regards "local arrangements" and "withdrawal of troops" mentioned in the resolution of 4 April, it had been agreed with the Governments concerned that they would favourably consider proposals by the Chief of Staff of the UNTSO for local arrangements—including separation of forces—where and when he considered such arrangements to be called for.

In the section of his report entitled "The cease-fire", the Secretary-General explained his understanding of the unconditional nature of the cease-fire assurances given by the Governments concerned. Such assurances, he stated, gave a basis for strict orders on 18 April 1956 by Egypt and Israel which served to relieve the situation along the Gaza Armistice Demarcation Line. Written unconditional assurances in regard to the observance of a cease-fire had been received from Jordan on 26 April, from Lebanon on 1 May and from Syria on 2 May 1956. By letters dated 26 April and 3 May 1956, the Secretary-General received the required assurances from Israel relating to its Armistice Agreements respectively with Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

Pointing out that the assurances he had received were all given within the general framework of the Charter and that their unconditional nature was restricted only by the reserve for self-defence, the Secretary-General stated that a party which had given such an assurance was covered by its reserve for self-defence in cases of non-compliance by the other party with its obligations under the Charter, or under the Armistice Agreements, only if and when such non-compliance was found to be a reason for the exertion of the right of self-defence as recognized in Article 51 of the Charter. The Security Council alone could decide whether this was the case or not. The reserve for self-defence and the significance it might give to compliance with the Charter, other clauses in the Armistice Agreements or relevant Security Council decisions, was thus under the sole jurisdiction of the Security Council, in accordance with the rules established. The meaning of the reserves for self-defence in a concrete situation could be determined only by the Security Council. Furthermore, the reserve for self-defence should be so understood as not to bring it in conflict with the substance of the cease-fire assurances themselves, and accordingly the reserves did not permit acts of retaliation.

Despite the re-established legal obligations, the cease-fire arrangements also depended on the general situation. With fears of attack widely spread among the peoples, anything which gave a feeling to a party that it was exposed to increased risks might represent a threat to the cease-fire, and any single incident, whatever its background, might, in a situation which was still far from stable, have the same effect. The Governments concerned should, therefore, do their best to keep the situation under such control as to minimize or eliminate the risk of future incidents. It was also for the Governments, for the public and for world opinion to avoid giving such interpretation to incidents as, without justification, would weaken faith in the cease-fire or discredit the good will of the other party.

On the question of general compliance, the Secretary-General reported that he had received assurances from all the Governments concerned of their will fully to comply with all the clauses of the Armistice Agreements, on the basis of reciprocity, but recognizing the independent position of the cease-fire clause. On two points of high importance within the framework of the Armistice Agreement between Egypt and Israel, the two Governments gave specific assurances to the Secretary-General. The first point related to all cases of crossings of the Demarcation Line and acts of violence in connexion therewith, and on this point the Secretary-General asked for and received assurances that active measures would be taken by the parties to prevent such occurrences. The Government of Jordan gave similar assurances of its intention to enforce active measures to prevent all crossings of the Demarcation Line and actions of violence connected therewith. The second point referred to the state of standing non-compliance from both sides, which was to be found in the so-called El-Auja area and the defensive areas, the status of which was established by articles VII and VIII of the Armistice Agreement.

The time sequence between various steps in the direction of full compliance with the Armistice Agreements was studied and questions arising discussed with Governments. This problem could not be solved by any explicit arrangements with any two parties because it was essentially a question of co-ordinated unilateral moves inspired by greater confidence in the

possibility of a peaceful development, each of them provoked by and, maybe, provoking similar unilateral moves on the other side. Once the cease-fire had proved effective, and as the stands of all sides had been clarified, the road should be open for the achievement of full implementation by related unilateral moves.

Procedural measures to help achieve full compliance with the Armistice Agreements formed also the subject of consideration by the Secretary-General. There was not in all cases an adequate functioning machinery for resolving disputes concerning the interpretation, or implementation, of the obligations assumed by the parties under the Agreements. A further weakness was that no procedure had been established for the handling of conflicts covered by the general clauses in the Armistice Agreements.

Regarding the state of standing non-compliance with articles VII and VIII of the Armistice Agreement between Egypt and Israel, the Secretary-General reported that in the demilitarized zone centered on El-Auja and in the area between the line El Quseima-Abu Aweigila and the demilitarized zone, forces respectively of Israel and Egypt were present or reported to be in occupation, and the position was that both parties were or must be presumed to be, to a greater or lesser extent, violating articles VII and VIII. During his mission, the Secretary-General received specific assurances from both sides of their willingness to establish full compliance with articles VII and VIII, within the framework of a full return to the state of affairs envisaged in the Armistice Agreement. A plan for the re-establishment of compliance with the two articles prepared by the Chief of Staff, and to which as such no objection had been made by the parties, was included in the report.

In the next section of his report dealing with local arrangements needed to observe and assist compliance with the substantive provisions of the Armistice Agreements, the Secretary-General outlined a number of proposals made by the Chief of Staff. The proposals had, in considerable measure, been accepted by the Governments concerned, and, among others, they involved freedom of movement for observers, Local Commanders' Agreements, separation of forces and marking of boundaries. The Chief of Staff's proposals were immediately important mainly in three areas, namely along the Demarcation Line in the Gaza area, the El-Auja demilitarized zone and the defensive areas of the western front, and Lake Tiberias. It was hoped to negotiate soon a Local Commanders' Agreement between Jordan and Israel. Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon gave assurances that, apart from the El-Auja, Gaza and Lake Tiberias areas for which special arrangements had been negotiated, freedom of movement for military observers within the relevant areas would be fully recognized. Israel's position was that it would continue to afford United Nations' observers the same degree of freedom of movement inside Israel which all residents or visitors to Israel normally enjoyed, and also such freedom of movement as might be required in respect to specific posts and patrols around the Gaza area.

The Secretary-General drew attention in his report to two special questions that confronted him during his mission. Israel raised the question of the Egyptian interference with Israel shipping through the Suez Canal as treated by the Security Council in a resolution of 1 September 1951 (S/2322), and also of interference in the Straits of Tiran. On this, the attitude of the Secretary-General had been that the Suez question, as adjudicated by the Council, was not a question of compliance with the Armistice Agreement in the sense of his mandate. He recognized, however, that in an approach looking beyond the immediate problems which, as he understood the resolution of 4 April, the Council had in mind, the question raised by Israel should come under consideration in the light of the Council's finding in its resolution of 1 September 1951 that the blockade was incompatible with the Armistice régime, as this régime put an end to a state in which Egypt could avail itself of belligerent rights.

The other question drawn to the Secretary-General's attention was Israel's scheme for the diversion of the Jordan River. On this, the Secretary-General had found that his formal stand under the terms of his mandate must be to request the parties to abide by decisions concerning the matter taken by the Security Council or under the Armistice Agreement between Syria and Israel, and to emphasize that in cases where different views were held as to the interpretation of a Council resolution, the Security Council alone could interpret its resolution. Apart from legal considerations, the Secretary-General found that the strain feared in case of a resumption of the Jordan River diversion work should not be permitted to endanger the cease-fire, and that it was the duty of the parties to the present effort to avoid any action that might create an added strain.

In concluding his report, the Secretary-General stated that he had devoted all his attention to the limited task—as called for by his mandate—of re-establishing first of all a cease-fire, and, based on the cease-fire, a state of full compliance with the Armistice Agreements. This meant that he had left aside those fundamental issues that so deeply influenced the situation in the Middle East. It was his own view, confirmed by the discussions he had had in the region, that the re-establishment of full compliance with the Armistice Agreements represented a stage that had to be passed in order to make progress possible on the main issues which he had considered to be outside his mandate.

Following on the efforts made during his mission, the initiative now lay in the hands of the Governments parties to the Armistice Agreements. It was the Secretary-General's feeling that there was a general will to peace, and that that will should be fostered and encouraged, not by attempts to impose from outside solutions to problems of vital significance to everyone in the region, but by a co-operation which facilitated for the Governments concerned the taking unilaterally of steps to increase confidence and to demonstrate their wish for peaceful conditions. The value of the efforts and their effect would depend first of all on the good will and the actions taken by the Governments directly concerned, and in the second place on the support given to those Governments by others and by the world community, as represented by the United Nations. Expressing the belief that there now might be a possibility of starting a chain of reactions leading to a continuous improvement of the situation, the Secretary-General concluded that, while the final settlement was probably still far off, even partial solutions to the harassing problems of the region would make a contribution to the welfare of the peoples concerned and to the peace of the world.

(e) Discussion of the report of the Secretary-General

The report of the Secretary-General, pursuant to e Security Council's resolution of 4 April 1956, was scussed by the Council at six meetings from 29 May 4 June 1956. On 25 May, the representative of the nited Kingdom had circulated a draft resolution nich he revised on 29 May. The revised draft reso- tion provided, among other things, that the Council, ving received the report of the Secretary-General, ting those passages which referred to the assurances all parties to the Armistice Agreements uncondi- nally to observe the cease-fire, noting, however, that ll compliance with the General Armistice Agreements id with the Council's resolutions of 30 March and 8 eptember 1955 and 19 January 1956 was not yet ef- cted, and that the measures called for in the third erative paragraph of the resolution of 4 April 1956 ad been neither completely agreed upon nor put fully nto effect, and conscious of the need to create condi- ons in which a peaceful settlement on a mutually ac- eptable basis of the dispute between the parties could e made, would: (1) commend the Secretary-General nd the parties on the progress already achieved; (2) eclare that the parties should speedily carry out the neasures already agreed upon with the Secretary- General and put into effect the further practical pro- osals of the Secretary-General and of the Chief of Staff; (3) declare that the full freedom of movement f the United Nations observers must be respected in ll areas along the Demarcation Lines, in the Demili- arized Zones and in the Defensive Areas; (4) en- dorse the Secretary-General's view that the re-estab- ishment of full compliance with the Armistice Agree- ments represented a stage which had to be passed in order to make progress possible on the main issues between the parties; (5) request the Chief of Staff to continue his observation of the cease-fire pursuant to the Council's resolution of 11 August 1949; (6) call upon the parties to the Armistice Agreements to take the steps necessary to carry out this resolution; and (7) request the Secretary-General to continue his good offices with the parties and to report to the Security Council as appropriate.

At the opening of the debate on 29 May, the Secretary-General stated that he felt that in the present situation the previous chain of events might be broken. He trusted that all parties would try to find what contributions they might make unilaterally in order to re-establish quiet and order.

The representatives of Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon stressed the importance of the reservation made by their Governments on the question of the diversion of the River Jordan. They criticized a number of points in the United Kingdom draft resolution as attempts to go beyond the mission of the Secretary-General and the resolution of the Security Council. Among other things, they expressed their strongest opposition to paragraph 6 of the preamble of the revised text concerning the need to create conditions in which a peaceful settlement on a mutually acceptable basis of the dispute between the parties could be made. They contended that this was a move far away from the premises of the resolution of 4 April which was limited in its scope and which dealt with specific measures. The only basis on which peace could be secured was through carrying out previous resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council on Palestine. Adopting this paragraph would in their view amount to writing off these United Nations resolutions. Israel was proclaiming its desire for peace, but in fact on all substantive issues which had to be solved to reach peace, the problems of the refugees, Jerusalem and the territorial settlement, its stand was uncompromising. They also objected to the wording of operative paragraph 3 which, by using the phrase "in all areas", departed from the wording of the resolution of 4 April; of operative paragraph 4, which singled out for endorsement one aspect of the Secretary-General's report which was an integral entity; of operative paragraph 7, which did not limit the good offices of the Secretary-General strictly within the frame of the Security Council resolution of 4 April 1956.

The representative of Israel stated that he could not accept the Arab reservation on the question of the river Jordan. Moreover, a cease-fire agreement, indispensable as it was, could not be regarded as an adequate substitute for peaceful conditions; local arrangements were subordinate to the political decisions of the parties to maintain the Armistice and to prevent unauthorized crossings of the Demarcation Line. Full compliance with the Armistice Agreements was incompatible with the invocation of a state of war; it also involved the obligation to extend their scope by negotiation of a final settlement. Israel aspired to a peaceful settlement with its neighbours on a mutually acceptable basis and was prepared to negotiate at the highest level to that end.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that there existed every possibility of avoiding an armed conflict in the Middle East if the parties observed the undertakings they had assumed. However, the Security Council should continue its efforts until a lasting and peaceful settlement of the whole Palestine problem had been achieved. The USSR was ready to assist the United Nations in achieving a peaceful settlement between the Arab States and Israel on the understanding that measures to relax the tension in the Palestine area would be taken with due regard for the wishes of the States of the Middle East and without interference in their domestic affairs.

The representative of the United States stated that the position of his delegation remained unchanged since 4 April 1956 and regretted that some concern had arisen over what might have been a misconception of the purpose of some of the language contained in the present draft resolution. He felt sure that the present draft resolution was fully in accord and consistent with the resolution of 4 April and this, he believed, was also the view of the representative of the United Kingdom.

The representative of Iran submitted an amendment deleting paragraph 6 of the preamble, which had been objected to by the Arab States, and explained that no resolution could be satisfactorily implemented unless it was acceptable to the parties concerned. The resolution should be adopted unanimously; otherwise it would compromise the favourable results of the Secretary-General's mission.

The Iranian amendment was supported by the USSR, Yugoslavia and China. It was contended that paragraph 6 of the preamble went beyond the scope of the resolution of 4 April 1956 and that it would be contradictory to promote a peaceful settlement on a mutually acceptable basis by a resolution which was not mutually accepted by the parties.

The representative of the United Kingdom on 1 June introduced a second revision which, among other things, deleted in operative paragraph 3 the words "in all areas" and inserted in operative paragraph 7 the words "with a view to full implementation of the Council's resolution of 4 April 1956 and full compliance with the Armistice Agreements". Referring to the phrase "on a mutually acceptable basis" in paragraph 6 of the preamble, he emphasized that its effect was to bring out the fact that any eventual settlement should be one arrived at through agreement and should not be imposed; it was not concerned with the nature of any future settlement. On 4 June, however, he accepted the Iranian amendment deleting paragraph 6 of the preamble.

The draft resolution thus amended was unanimously adopted on 4 June.

Following the voting, the representative of France deplored the deletion of paragraph 6 of the preamble and emphasized that its suppression could not mean the rejection of a solution based on the principle it conveyed. The representative of the United Kingdom stated that he had accepted the Iranian amendment because he felt that since the object of the resolution was to ask the Secretary-General, who represented the totality of the United Nations, to continue his mission on the Palestine question, dissent or lack of support from the members of the Council would have hampered him, a risk which the representative of the United Kingdom felt he should not take.

The Secretary-General stated that he would try to meet the request of the Security Council. It was his firm hope that differences highlighted by the debate would not be permitted to harm the efforts on which the United Nations, in co-operation with the parties, had embarked.

6. Assistance to Palestine refugees

(*a*) Reports of the Director and of the Advisory Commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

In accordance with paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 302 (IV), the Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East submitted to the General Assembly, for consideration at its tenth session, the sixth annual report on the activities of the Agency, covering the period 1 July 1954 to 30 June 1955. This report was accompanied by a special report of the Director concerning "Other claimants for relief", which described a category of claimants that did not receive direct and full assistance from the Agency. In addition, the Assembly had before it a special report of the Advisory Commission of UNRWA, dated 7 November 1955.

The Director's annual report gave an account of the activities of UNRWA in terms of the tasks assigned to it, described the difficulties that were encountered in the fields of relief and rehabilitation, and concluded with a series of recommendations.

The report pointed out that there were 906,000 refugees on the relief rolls of UNRWA, an increase of 20,000 from the previous year. While there were evident signs of malnutrition among the recipients aid, the margin of safety provided by the present di tribution of foodstuffs was small. Relief costs p person per year, including administrative expense again averaged about $27.00.

The main obstacles encountered by the Agency performing its functions were: (1) the absence of solution to the Palestine problem along the lines General Assembly resolution 194 (III) regarding r patriation of and compensation to refugees; (2) th meagreness of the physical resources made availab for development projects that would rehabilitate a si nificant number of refugees; and (3) the attitude the refugees and the policies of the Governments the area, which continued to be conditioned by th strong desire of the refugees to return to their hom land.

The Director's annual report drew the attention the General Assembly to the following conclusion reached by the Agency: (1) unless the refugees wer given an opportunity to choose between repatriatio and compensation, it would not be feasible to carry ou fully the reintegration of the refugees in the economi life of the Near East; (2) assuming the satisfactor solution of the political problems involved, significan areas of land in the Jordan valley and Western Sina could, through irrigation, be brought under cultivatio and made available to refugees; (3) with the co operation of the Governments of the area, certain proj ects could be developed to enable a substantial numbe of the refugees to become self-supporting; (4) the edu cational facilities of the Agency should be improve and expanded; (5) the Agency must have the assur ance of sufficient funds to enable it to improve furthe the standards of relief; and (6) funds must be mad available in time to enable planning to be done an for obligations to be met.

The Director's special report, which was submitte in accordance with paragraph 6 of General Assembl resolution 818 (IX), contained information on th needs of other claimants for relief. Among those wh sought relief but did not get it from the Agency unde its current policy were: (1) those who had suffere serious loss as a result of the troubles in 1948; (2 some children in Jordan and frontier villages in tha country; (3) refugees in Egypt and non-refugees i the Gaza strip; and (4) Bedouins. Great suffering existed among these groups.

Finally, the special report of the Advisory Commission of UNRWA, which commented on aspects of the relief and rehabilitation programmes conducted by the Agency, noted that little progress had been made in the basic settlement of the refugee problem and recognized that relief would have to be continued for a long time. It approved proposals for improvement of relief standards subject to availability of funds, and made certain suggestions with regard to the financial operations of the Agency. The report also made suggestions concerning programmes and projects which would provide the refugees greater opportunities for employment, education and vocational training.

Regarding funds, the Director reported to the General Assembly that UNRWA needed $26,800,000 to maintain current standards; $1,700,000 to improve those standards; $16 million for its education programme and foreseeable small-scale rehabilitation proj-

s; $76 million to start the Yarmuk-Jordan and Sinai ojects; and $14 million to carry the Agency through e period between the expenditure of funds and the ceipts of contributions. Assistance to the other claim-ts depended on the approval of the General Assembly d the availability of additional funds.

(*b*) Consideration by the General Assembly at its tenth session

The annual report of the Director was considered the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee, together with the ecial reports of the Director and the Advisory Com-ission, at twelve meetings held between 14 and 30 ovember 1955.

On 28 November, Turkey, the United Kingdom of reat Britain and Northern Ireland and the United tates of America submitted a draft resolution embody-ng various recommendations contained in the reports f the Director and the Advisory Commission. Under he terms of the draft resolution, the General Assembly, oting that repatriation of or compensation to the refu-ees, as provided for in paragraph 11 of resolution 194 III), had not been effected, that no substantial prog-ess had been made in the programme for reintegration f refugees endorsed in paragraph 2 of resolution 513 VI), and that the situation of the refugees therefore ontinued to be a matter of grave concern, would, *inter lia* (1) direct the Agency to pursue its programmes or the relief and rehabilitation of refugees, bearing in mind the limitations imposed upon it by the extent of he contributions received; (2) request UNRWA to ontinue its consultation with the United Nations Con-iliation Commission for Palestine with particular refer-ence to questions of repatriation or compensation; (3) request the Governments of the area, without prej-udice to the matter of repatriation or compensation, to make a determined effort, in co-operation with the Director of the Agency, to seek and carry out projects capable of supporting substantial numbers of refugees; (4) note that the Government of Jordan and the Agency had made substantial progress towards resolv-ing the difficulties which impeded the granting of rations to all qualified refugee children in Jordan; (5) note the serious need of the other claimants for relief, appeal to private organizations to give them increased assistance to the extent that local Governments could not do so, and urge all Governments and individuals to support these private organizations with food, goods and ser-vices; (6) request the Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds, after the receipt of the budgets from the Director of the Agency, to seek such funds as might be required by the Agency; (7) appeal to the Govern-ments of Member and non-Member States to make voluntary contributions to the extent necessary to carry through to fulfilment the Agency's programmes; (8) ex-press its thanks to the Director and staff for their efforts to carry out their mandate and request the Governments of the area to continue to facilitate the work of the Agency and to ensure the protection of its personnel; and (9) thank the numerous religious, charitable and humanitarian organizations for their valuable and con-tinuing work in assisting the refugees.

On 14 November, the Director of UNRWA, in pre-senting his report, stated that the refugees were one of the most important causes of the continued tension in the Near East, and at the same time the victims of it. Rehabilitation had been rendered difficult by human, political and economic factors. The failure to implement the Assembly's resolution referring to repatriation and compensation was one of the main reasons why refugees resisted in varying degrees the rehabilitation work of the Agency. A great majority of the refugees considered participation in a rehabilitation project tantamount to renunciation of the rights guaranteed to them by the United Nations. In view of the increasing desire on the part of many refugees to become self-supporting, it was advisable to continue to seek ways and means to secure that end. Moreover, despite all difficulties and limita-tions, work on the Sinai and Yarmuk-Jordan projects should be continued pending political solution of the Palestine problem. While he knew the difficulties in-volved and would make no recommendations regarding such a solution, he would stress that re-integration in general depended on the co-operation and consent of the refugees and the Governments of the area which, in turn, depended on political decisions over which the Agency had no control.

In the course of the discussion, the representatives of Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Yemen, as well as the representative of Jordan who was invited to participate, asserted that failure to settle the refugee problem was mainly caused by Israel's refusal to com-ply with United Nations resolutions on the subject. The only realistic solution lay in giving the refugees the opportunity to choose between repatriation and com-pensation. Only then would the implementation of other resolutions concerning the reintegration of the refugees into the economic life of the Near East become feasible.

The representatives went on to say that the refugees needed additional aid of all kinds which depended on an increase of the relief fund. Relief would be needed for a long time and should be extended to the other claim-ants who had hitherto not been assisted. Israel should be asked to pay rental for the use of refugee property in Israel, and the sum collected could be used to assist the refugees. Some representatives insisted that the wishes of the refugees should be ascertained by a plebiscite. If an appropriate portion of territory in Israel could be returned to its Arab owners in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions, then about half a million refugees could be taken off relief, the require-ments of the frontier villagers could be met, the problem of the Gaza strip and the Bedouins could be solved, and the need for international assistance could be reduced. The Agency would then be able to reintegrate the refugees by repatriation and resettlement.

The representative of Israel said that the military action taken by the Arab States against his country was responsible for the creation of the refugee problem, and it was incumbent on these States to devote their re-sources to meet that responsibility. The most urgent task confronting the Agency was to proceed with projects that would enable at least a portion of the refugees to become self-supporting, but the Arab Governments pre-vented an effective solution by holding in suspense all the major rehabilitation projects. The resettlement of the refugees in Arab countries was in the interest of the refugees as well as the Arab States, while their repatria-tion would constitute a danger to Israel and thereby increase existing tension. While Israel would make every effort to assist in the solution of the refugee problem, any such solution would have to exclude future repatriation of Arab refugees to Israel. If the Arab States co-operated, there would only remain the ques-tion of the right of the refugees to compensation and other rights as former inhabitants of what was now the

State of Israel. While his country's present territorial position rested on a foundation of law and while any revision of boundaries required its consent, Israel would welcome an international loan such as had been suggested to pay compensation for the land abandoned by the refugees.

The representatives of Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States, the co-sponsors of the joint draft resolution, agreed with the Director that if the Agency was to be enabled to carry out its tasks, it was necessary to find a speedy settlement of certain political aspects of the Palestine question, such as the question of repatriation or compensation and of certain other outstanding differences between Israel and the Arab States. Pending such settlement, the Governments of the area should agree to implement the proposed projects in order to help refugees to become self-supporting. The projects would not only be of great benefit to at least a quarter of the refugees, but at the same time would help the expansion of the economies of the host countries.

The representatives of Afghanistan, Argentina, India, Indonesia, Iran, Pakistan and Poland stressed the importance of the implementation of the resolution concerning repatriation and compensation. The representative of Iran suggested that refugees could be repatriated in yearly quotas and stages. If Israel accepted the principle of this resolution, the other Governments could then be expected to plan for the rehabilitation of the refugees not repatriated.

Many representatives, including those of Australia, Denmark, Greece, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Panama, believed that a solution of the refugee problem could be brought about through compromise. Some of these representatives thought that Israel could accept at least a certain number of refugees, perhaps in stages, and the Arab States could accept resettlement for the rest. Some others pointed out that it would be unrealistic to ask Israel to admit all the refugees. All speakers paid tribute to the effective way in which the Agency carried out its tasks and services.

On 30 November, the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee adopted the draft resolution by a roll-call vote of 38 to none, with 19 abstentions, and on 3 December the General Assembly adopted, without debate, the draft resolution recommended by the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee, by 38 votes to none, with 17 abstentions (resolution 916 (X)).

(*c*) Activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

(i) *Operations*

The number of refugees registered with the Agency has increased from 902,521 as of 1 May 1955 to 919,710 as of 1 May 1956. In Lebanon, considerable progress has been made towards a more accurate registration, to the benefit of the neediest refugees. In Syria and Gaza, some difficulties remain, but it is to be hoped that they will be overcome. In both these countries, the Agency's registration records are closer to reality than in Jordan, where the political situation has prevented the finalization of the arrangements reported to the General Assembly at its tenth session for the transfer to eligible refugees, particularly children, of the rations recovered from persons ineligible for relief. In spite of the fact, therefore, that the Assembly in resolution 916 (X) noted with gratification that the Government of Jordan and the Agency "have made substantial progress towards resolving the difficulties which impede the granting of rations to all qualified children in Jordan", refugee children in that country born after February 195[illegible] remain without basic food rations, though they continue to receive all other forms of assistance. During the period under review, a new and more equitable system for determining when the Agency might regard a refugee as self-supporting has been introduced in Lebanon, and negotiations are under way for the introduction of the system in Syria. On the basis of a modification in the income scale, it provides that the Agency's services to refugees who have found employment are reduced only gradually as the *per capita* family income rises, thus encouraging refugees to accept work; free health services and education are given to refugees earning more than the income at which rations are no longer provided, and are cut only when the refugee concerned can reasonably be expected to pay for them himself.

The number of refugees receiving basic food rations has remained approximately constant in the period under review, at 836,389 on 1 May 1955 and 846,637 (full rations, 829,627; half rations, 17,010) on 1 May 1956. A monthly average of 27,000 pregnant and nursing women have received an additional special ration; the average number of supplementary hot mid-day meals given on doctors' orders has remained about 43,000; and the average number of children receiving a daily ration of milk in school has increased from about 21,000 to about 40,000. A study of the nutrition of the refugees has been made by the World Health Organization. Preliminary findings indicate that their nutritional status is satisfactory; but the final evaluation of results is not available at the time of writing.

There has been a gradual increase in the number of refugees sheltered in camps since the beginning of the Agency's operations: in June 1950 the number was about 252,000, last year's report gave the number at that time as about 348,000, and it is now about 362,782. The Agency has adopted as a general standard the construction of concrete-brick huts, three such camps having been opened during the year in Lebanon and one in Jordan. The number of tents in refugee camps remains about 14,000; but the number of huts (concrete and the traditional mud brick) has increased from 60,000 to over 70,000. It is planned to replace all the 11,000 tents in Jordan before the winter of 1957. In addition, schools, clinics, feeding centres and other public service buildings have been added to existing camps in Jordan in replacement of inadequate accommodation.

The Agency's health services remain substantially unchanged, and the health of the refugees in the Agency's care has continued to be satisfactory, the most prevalent diseases being those which affect the whole population of the Near East (dysenteries and eye infections). There has been a modest expansion of the school health service, the mental health programme in Jordan has been improved, though further improvement is needed, and a new wing to house refugee patients is being added to an existing tuberculosis hospital in Lebanon.

During the period under review, the Agency has been able for the first time to provide new clothes to refugees in its care. Boys under fifteen are being given shorts, a shirt and under-garments, and girls a dress and under-

garments. These clothes are being sewn largely by the refugee mothers themselves. Part of the cloth for this project has been woven by weavers in the Gaza strip, using yarn made available by the Agency; much needed and highly appreciated employment has thus been afforded. This project has not reduced the need for contributions of used clothing, which have continued at about the same rate as during the previous year. Contributions of used shoes have continued at double the previous rate. Used clothes and shoes are collected by voluntary agencies.

The educational programme, which is intended to fit refugees to play their part in the expanding economy of the Middle East, has continued its rapid growth. There were 43,100 pupils and 848 teachers in 114 Agency schools, together with 50,000 assisted refugee pupils in other schools, in 1951. In the 1955-1956 academic year, there are 115,400 pupils and 3,000 teachers in 389 Agency schools, as well as 56,000 assisted refugee pupils elsewhere. This programme, which cost $300,000 in 1951, is budgeted to cost $5,214,000 in the year under review; it now includes secondary classes for a percentage of the refugee school population, as well as elementary education, with vocational, agricultural and teacher training and university scholarships in addition. This educational system is one of the most important means now open to the Agency for preparing the refugees to become self-supporting.

In order to help refugees to find jobs with private employers, the Agency has continued its placement service, which includes trade testing, and it pays refugees' fares to the location of the job. The Agency has been able to expand its programme of small grants to refugees in Jordan. From 1 July 1955 to 30 April 1956 it made grants at a total cost of about $400,000 to about two hundred families for the development of industrial, commercial and agricultural enterprises, as well as for housing. It has also planned enlargements to three of its agricultural colonies. A project operating in all four host countries provides training in embroidery, sewing and leather-work and partial self-support for an increasing number of women and girls. The Agency has completed an agricultural economic survey and a land tenure survey of the Jordan valley, and has initiated a five-year malaria control programme there in co-operation with the Jordan Government. An engineering survey of the Jordan and Yarmuk valleys, partly financed by the Agency, and a report, made jointly by the Agency and the Government of Egypt, regarding the feasibility of irrigating an area in Western Sinai with water from the Nile, have also been completed. A small number of refugees desiring to emigrate, who would otherwise not have been able to use their visas, have been given travel grants by the Agency.

(ii) *Finance and personnel*

The budget for the above operations, including administrative and overhead expenses, was $26,800,000 in respect of relief and $16 million in respect of education and small-scale rehabilitation projects. In addition, the Agency's Advisory Commission approved a supplementary relief budget of $1,700,000, providing the money could be found over and above that necessary to finance the normal budget, to cover certain necessary improvements in the standard of relief; and a further $76 million would have been needed if the irrigation projects in the Jordan and Yarmuk valleys and in Western Sinai had been started.

Sufficient cash was already available in the Agency's rehabilitation fund to meet the expenses of education and small projects. But pledges in respect of the relief budget have amounted by 15 June 1956 to only $23,327,789; of that sum, $17,463,204 has been paid. Expenditure has been reduced to a figure approximately equal to the total amount pledged through delays in undertaking certain necessary construction and in purchasing certain items of equipment, and through consequential delays in implementing authorized programmes. Funds have not been available to permit the improvements in standards covered by the supplementary relief budget.

The Agency's staff on 31 December 1955 consisted of 9,387 area personnel, mostly refugees, and 155 international personnel. Of these, 3,000 were teachers, and 3,290 medical and sanitary staff.

7. Treatment of people of Indian origin in the Union of South Africa

This question has been dealt with at every session of the General Assembly except the fourth session. At the ninth session the Assembly, by resolution 816 (IX), suggested to the Governments of India, Pakistan and the Union of South Africa that they should seek a solution of the question by direct negotiations and that they should designate a Government, agency or person to facilitate contacts between them and assist them in settling the dispute. The Assembly further decided that, if within six months the parties had not reached an agreement on these suggestions, the Secretary-General should designate a person to facilitate contacts between the Governments concerned and to assist in reaching a settlement.

The Secretary-General, in a report submitted on 25 October 1955, explained that on 26 April and 2 May of that year the Permanent Representative of India had forwarded copies of a number of telegrams exchanged between India and the Union of South Africa from which it appeared that the attempts the three Governments concerned had undertaken to initiate new direct negotiations had broken down. The Secretary-General had therefore, on 28 June, designated Ambassador Luis de Faro, Jr. of Brazil to discharge the functions called for in the General Assembly resolution. While India and Pakistan had stated that they would extend full co-operation to Ambassador de Faro, the Minister for External Affairs of the Union had informed the Secretary-General that his Government was obliged, regretfully, to decline to collaborate with Sr. de Faro in order not to prejudice its juridical position.

Ambassador de Faro had arrived in New York in the middle of July and had remained until the middle of September in the hope that he might in some way be able to exercise a useful influence. However, on 15 September, he had concluded that, in view of the attitude of the Government of the Union of South Africa, there was nothing further he could do to facilitate negotiations between the parties.

The General Assembly included the item in the agenda of its tenth session by 47 votes to 1, with 10 abstentions.

The *Ad Hoc* Political Committee considered the question at two meetings held on 8 and 9 December.

A month earlier, the Government of the Union of South Africa had withdrawn its delegation from the Assembly after the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee had adopted a draft resolution on another item on its agenda, "The question of race conflict in South Africa resulting from the policies of *apartheid* of the Government of the Union of South Africa".

The representative of India deeply regretted the absence of the South African delegation. It had always been his delegation's view that the solution of any problem could be found through mutual discussions. The position of the Indian community in the Union of South Africa continued to deteriorate. The United Nations should share the concern felt by the countries gathered at Bandung. To take no interest in the problem, he concluded, would have the effect of making the Charter lose all significance in the eyes of the vast majority of the peoples of the world. The representative of Pakistan also regretted that the latest efforts had proved fruitless; nevertheless, he stated, Pakistan was prepared to attempt once more to institute negotiations with the Union Government.

Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution providing that the General Assembly would urge the parties to pursue negotiations with a view to bringing about a settlement of the question and request them to report jointly or separately at the next session. At the suggestion of the representative of Denmark, the co-sponsors agreed to modify the final paragraph to read "invites the parties to report as appropriate, jointly or separately, to the General Assembly at its next session".

A number of representatives spoke in favour of the draft resolution. The representative of Brazil pointed out that the legal position of the Union of South Africa did not bar a resumption of negotiations through direct channels. The Assembly, however, should be careful not to raise controversial points which might poison an atmosphere conducive to direct talks, for instance by including the item automatically in the agenda of the next session.

The draft resolution was adopted by the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee by a roll-call vote of 43 to none, with 8 abstentions and, on 14 December 1955, the General Assembly adopted the draft resolution recommended by the Committee by 46 votes to none, with 8 abstentions (resolution 919 (X)).

8. The question of race conflict in South Africa resulting from the policies of *apartheid* of the Government of the Union of South Africa

The United Nations Commission on the Racial Situation in the Union of South Africa, under the terms of General Assembly resolution 820 (IX), submitted its third report on 26 August 1955. After reviewing the developments during the year, the Commission stated that the general aims of the policy of *apartheid* pursued by the Union Government had not changed and that it was consistent neither with the obligations assumed by the Union of South Africa under the Charter nor with certain provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The continuation of such a policy was likely to impair friendly relations among nations. However, in the implementation of the *apartheid* policy, a certain flexibility and gradualism already noted in the first report had become more marked; the process of *apartheid* had slowed down and become cautious. The Commission considered that a solution should be sought in frequent interracial round-table discussions and other contacts. It recalled its prior suggestion that the United Nations should offer its co-operation including, as special technical assistance, the intellectual and material resources which the United Nations and the specialized agencies could command.

The item was included in the agenda of the tenth session of the General Assembly on 30 September and was referred to the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee, which dealt with it at ten meetings held between 24 October and 9 November. At the outset of the discussion in the Committee, the representative of the Union of South Africa recalled that his Government had always challenged the right of the Assembly to deal with this matter, which was essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of the Union. His delegation would not participate in or be present during any discussions of the item. However, he reserved his right to take part in the vote on any draft resolution which might be submitted on the question.

The third report of the Commission was presented by the Chairman-Rapporteur, who emphasized the efforts of that body to widen its field of information in order to ensure complete objectivity. He noted the decisions on the subject by the Bandung Conference and by the World Council of Churches, and emphasized the profound emotional effect produced in particular on the peoples of Asia and Africa by a policy of discrimination on grounds of colour.

During the ensuing debate, a number of representatives commended the Commission's report and urged the Assembly to continue its efforts to solve the problem. Several representatives, supporting the constitutional position of the Union of South Africa, stated that Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter precluded discussion of the item. No progress could be made on such issues without the co-operation of the Member States involved.

In the course of the debate, a draft resolution, sponsored by Afghanistan, Bolivia, Burma, Egypt, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen, was introduced. The draft resolution, after reiterating previous Assembly resolutions on *apartheid*, expressed concern that the Union Government continued to give effect to policies of *apartheid*, despite the Assembly's request that it should reconsider its position in the light of the principles of the Charter and the pledge of all Member States to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction as to race. It called on the Union Government to observe the obligations of co-operation with the Organization contained in Article 56 of the Charter; the resolution provided further that the Commission should continue to keep under review the racial situation in South Africa.

A number of representatives, speaking in support of the draft resolution, declared that South Africa's *apartheid* policy had aroused world-wide concern and fully justified consideration and further action by the United Nations. The continuation of the Commission

was necessary to maintain the good name of the United Nations.

The representative of Cuba suggested the establishment in the United Nations Secretariat of a working group on African affairs to study the development of the South Africa race problem. Member States could furnish to the Secretary-General information for a report which might form the basis for a new effort to overcome the *impasse* on the South African race question.

On 9 November, the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee approved the draft resolution by a roll-call vote of 37 to 7, with 13 abstentions.

The representative of the Union of South Africa, who had returned to the Committee to participate in the voting, stated that once again the provisions of Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter had been contravened, and the Union had been denied its rights as a Member State. It was on the basis of such an understanding of the meaning and scope of the Article that his Government had signed the Charter. The Committee, by adopting the resolution, had lent its authority to a reckless measure which might do incalculable harm. Every State had internal conflicts and policies about which it could not subordinate its own decision to that of an international organization. In view of what had happened, his Government, after serious consideration, had decided to recall its delegation to the United Nations from the present session.

When the General Assembly considered the report of the Committee on 6 December 1955, the representative of Costa Rica introduced an amendment to the draft resolution calling on the Assembly to continue consideration of the *apartheid* question at its eleventh session in 1956. The amendment failed to obtain the required two-thirds majority, receiving 27 votes in favour and 15 against, with 15 abstentions.

The draft resolution recommended by the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee was voted upon paragraph by paragraph, with the following results: the preamble and the first six operative paragraphs were adopted; paragraph 7, requesting the Commission to continue to work and to report to the Assembly's next session, was voted upon by roll-call and rejected, having failed to obtain the necessary two-thirds majority, the vote being 33 in favour and 17 against, with 9 abstentions; paragraph 8, providing for the replacement of members of the Commission if necessary, also failed to obtain a two-thirds majority and was rejected. The last three paragraphs, which were dependent on the rejected paragraph 7, were not voted upon. The resolution as a whole, as amended, was then adopted by 41 votes to 6, with 8 abstentions (resolution 917 (X)).

9. The question of Morocco

By a letter dated 26 July 1955, the representatives of Afghanistan, Burma, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Thailand and Yemen, who were later joined by the representative of Liberia, requested that the question of Morocco should be included in the agenda of the tenth session of the General Assembly. In an explanatory memorandum accompanying their request, they stated, *inter alia*, that the French Government had not yet taken any steps to conduct negotiations with the true representatives of the Moroccan people, although, in resolution 812 (IX), the Assembly had expressed confidence that a satisfactory solution would be achieved. On the contrary, further repressive measures adopted by the French Government had only served to aggravate the situation. In conclusion, the sponsors expressed the hope that the Assembly would again consider the question of Morocco, with a view to recommending the French Government to take the necessary steps to remedy the situation and to bring peace to that part of the world.

The General Assembly decided, without discussion, to place the question of Morocco on its agenda and allocated it to the First Committee for consideration and report.

The representatives of France did not attend any meetings of the Assembly or its Main Committees from 1 October 1955, after the Assembly had decided to include the question of Algeria in its agenda, until the end of November, when the Assembly decided not to consider further the question of Algeria and stated that it was therefore no longer seized of that item on the agenda of its tenth session (resolution 909 (X)).

During the debate on the question of Morocco in the First Committee, several representatives pointed out that the terms of the problem had been changed by two new factors which had arisen in the meantime: first, the return to Morocco of Sultan Sidi Mohammed ben Youssef; and, second, the issue of a joint declaration on 8 November 1955 by the Sultan and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of France to the effect that negotiations were taking place with a view to giving Morocco the status of an independent State united to France by the permanent ties of an interdependence freely accepted and defined. It was in those circumstances that the First Committee, when it began its consideration of the question of Morocco on 28 November 1955, had before it a thirty-one-Power draft resolution, under which the General Assembly, noting that negotiations between France and Morocco were to be initiated, would decide to postpone further consideration of the item. During the discussion, some of the co-sponsors of the draft resolution expressed regret at the absence of the representative of France. Some representatives expressed the hope that relations of friendship and co-operation between France and Morocco would be based on respect for the principles of freedom, equality and fraternity: it was now incumbent on the Assembly to do everything it could to contribute to an atmosphere in which the parties could work out the outstanding problems between them. The solution of those problems required the utmost goodwill, patience and restraint on both sides.

On 28 November 1955, the First Committee adopted the draft resolution by 49 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

The General Assembly in turn, on 3 December 1955, adopted by 51 votes to none, with 5 abstentions, the draft resolution the text of which had been recommended to it by the First Committee (resolution 911 (X)).

10. The question of Algeria

On 26 July 1955, the representatives of Afghanistan, Burma, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Lebanon, Paki-

stan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Thailand and Yemen, who were later joined by the representative of Liberia, requested that the question of Algeria should be included in the agenda of the tenth session of the General Assembly.

This request was considered by the General Committee of the Assembly on 22 September 1955.

The inclusion of the item in the agenda was opposed by the representative of France on the grounds that Algerian affairs were essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of France. Since 1824, Algeria had formed an integral part of metropolitan France: every Algerian was a French citizen and, from the age of twenty-one years, an elector. Algerian Departments were represented in the National Assembly and in the Council of the Republic on an equal footing with those of continental France. Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter was therefore clearly applicable. Furthermore, the right of self-determination of peoples gave the General Assembly no competence in the matter. That right was in fact simply a means of achieving one of the purposes of the Charter; but its implementation was not governed by any specific provision conferring competence.

A number of representatives, including the representatives of Egypt, India, Iraq, Pakistan, Thailand and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, called for the inclusion of the item in the agenda. Since 1 November 1954, what was in fact a state of war had, they said, existed in Algeria. In requesting inclusion they relied on Article 1, paragraphs 2 and 4; Article 2, paragraph 4; Article 10; Article 11, paragraph 2; and Article 14 of the Charter. In their view those Articles established the competence of the Assembly. Article 2, paragraph 7, was not applicable. They also pointed out that, until 1830, Algeria had been an independent and sovereign country and had been finally conquered by force only thirty years later. In any case, the political equality enjoyed by the Algerians existed only in theory: in fact, Algerians did not possess the same rights as French citizens, and Algeria was treated, not as part of metropolitan France, but as a non-self-governing territory.

The representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and New Zealand declared that the case of Algeria was different from that of Morocco or Tunisia; the latter were protectorates while Algeria was an integral part of France. The States proposing the inclusion of the item in the agenda were in fact seeking sanction for a course of action intended to bring about fundamental changes in the composition of the French Republic. Such a purpose was clearly inconsistent with Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter.

The General Committee decided, by 8 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions, not to recommend the inclusion of the item in the agenda.

The report of the General Committee on the request for the inclusion of the question of Algeria was considered by the General Assembly at three meetings held on 27 and 30 September 1955.

The representatives who opposed the inclusion of the item in the agenda expressed the view that, for practical and political reasons, it was better not to discuss the Algerian question in the United Nations. France had on other occasions already demonstrated its ability to solve its problems itself. The purpose in certain quarters was undoubtedly to frustrate France's efforts to establish a free association between itself and its overseas territories.

These representatives argued that, from the legal point of view, the Assembly did not have the necessary competence to consider the question of Algeria. It could not properly be argued, as those who proposed the inclusion of the item contended, that Article 2, paragraph 7, was overridden by the principle of self-determination referred to in Articles 1 and 55, and, indirectly, in the Preamble to the Charter. In pursuit of the purposes in Article 1, Member States were in fact obliged to act in accordance with the principles laid down in Article 2, including the principle embodied in Article 2, paragraph 7. There could not be an international dispute between France and Algeria, and there was no threat to the maintenance of international peace and security in that part of the world. Consequently, Article 2, paragraph 7, as its terms indicated, must override all the other provisions of the Charter. Article 35 was not applicable, as the dispute in question was an internal, not an international, dispute.

It was further pointed out, by the representative of France, that Algeria had formed an integral part of French territory since 1830, and that no one had disputed that fact. If the Assembly nevertheless decided to place the item on its agenda, the consequence of its decision would, the French Government believed, be far more serious for the United Nations than for France. The future of the Organization would be at stake, for there would be nothing to prevent any Member State from intervening in the internal affairs of another State, including matters affecting its territorial unity or frontiers.

The representatives who supported the inclusion of the item in the agenda argued that Article 2, paragraph 7, was not intended to nullify the other provisions of the Charter and thus to frustrate the aspirations of peoples for freedom. Furthermore, it was provided in Article 2, paragraph 7 itself, that the principle of domestic jurisdiction "shall not prejudice the application of enforcement measures under Chapter VII". The Assembly could, if it so desired, regard the continuing conflict and bloodshed in Algeria as a real threat to the maintenance of international peace and security.

In any case, it was proposed only that the question of Algeria should be discussed and not that France should be required to submit the matter to settlement. Under Articles 10, 11, 14 and 35 of the Charter the Assembly could discuss any question within the scope of the Charter. The previous examples, such as those of the Union of South Africa, Tunisia, Morocco and West Irian (West New Guinea) showed that the Assembly had merely invited the parties to get together in order to resolve their problems themselves. Such action certainly did not constitute intervention within the meaning of Article 2, paragraph 7.

Moreover, it could not seriously be maintained that Algeria was an integral part of "metropolitan France" and that the question therefore could not be considered. If that argument were accepted, the very basis of the existence of over a third of the States Members of the United Nations which, at one time in their history, had been territories dependent upon "metropolitan" Powers would be called into question. The Assembly was in fact being asked, not to intervene in the internal affairs of a Member State, but to discuss a colonial

problem, as was shown by the fact that the Algerian people and Algeria were not represented in the political and legislative organs of France on the same footing as the French population and the departments of metropolitan France.

On 30 September 1955, the General Assembly rejected, by 28 votes to 27, with 5 abstentions, the General Committee's recommendation that the question of Algeria should not be included in its agenda. It allocated the item to the First Committee for consideration and report.

Immediately after the vote, the representative of France stated that his Government could not accept any intervention by the General Assembly in a matter which was essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of France, and that it would consider as null and void any recommendation which the Assembly might make on the matter.

The representative of France, and the other members of the French delegation, immediately ceased to attend meetings of the Assembly and of its Main Committees.

On 23 November, the Chairman of the First Committee informed the representatives that the President of the Assembly had received a letter from the Permanent Representatives of Chile, Colombia, Cuba and Ecuador containing a proposal by which the Assembly, in accordance with rule 22 of its rules of procedure, would decide to delete the question of Algeria from its agenda.

On the proposal of the representative of Ecuador, the First Committee decided to postpone its discussion of the Algerian question until 25 November to allow Members to continue the consultations with regard to that item.

On 25 November, the representative of India submitted the following procedural motion to the First Committee: "The General Assembly decides not to consider further the item entitled 'The question of Algeria' and is therefore no longer seized of this item on the agenda of the tenth session." The representative of India pointed out that the decision would apply only to the tenth session of the Assembly as one session of the Assembly could not make a decision for a subsequent session. He added that the adoption of his procedural motion would be without prejudice to the views expressed by delegations on the various aspects of the problem under consideration.

There being no objections, the Chairman declared the Indian motion adopted.

On 25 November, the General Assembly decided without discussion to adopt the draft resolution recommended to it by the First Committee (resolution 909 (X)).

A number of representatives expressed their regret at France's absence from the Assembly's discussions. They also expressed the hope that France would soon resume its place and that the problem of Algeria would be peacefully settled. Several representatives affirmed that the General Assembly was competent to deal with the question of Algeria and pointed out that the Assembly's decision not to consider the item further did not imply that the United Nations would not take up the question at a later date if France failed in its efforts to reach a settlement.

11. The Korean question

(*a*) Consideration by the General Assembly at its tenth session

By resolution 811 (IX) adopted at its ninth session, the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to place the Korean question on the provisional agenda of the tenth session. By a letter dated 21 August 1955, the Permanent Representative of India requested the inclusion of the following two items: (1) reports of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission in Korea; and (2) problem of ex-prisoners of the Korean war. In an explanatory memorandum, it was stated that as regards the first item, the Government of India desired that the reports of the Repatriation Commission, which had been circulated to the Members of the United Nations in 1954 but had not been discussed, should be debated by the Assembly; and, as regards the second item, it desired a solution to the problem of the eighty-eight prisoners of the Korean war who, having expressed their wish to be sent to neutral countries, had been taken to India pending their final disposition. The Government of India felt that the Assembly should request Member States which had been neutral in the Korean war to accept those of the eighty-two prisoners remaining unrepatriated who sought admission to their countries and to undertake the rehabilitation of the prisoners. Meanwhile, it wished the General Assembly to make definite arrangements for meeting the expenditure incurred for the care and maintenance of the prisoners in India.

The United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea submitted to the Assembly a report covering the period from 17 August 1954 to 7 September 1955. Regarding its own functions, the Commission stated that it was still unable to contribute to the realization of its fundamental objective, the unification of Korea. While it considered that there was a continuing need for political representation of the United Nations in Korea, the Commission reported that, in its view, the requirements of the current circumstances could be met by its establishing a Committee to act on its behalf when the full Commission was not meeting, and that it had so decided.

The report of UNCURK and the two items submitted by India were included on 30 September in the agenda of the Assembly as three sub-items under the general heading "The Korean question", and were examined by the First Committee at eleven meetings held between 9 and 22 November 1955.

On 9 November, Syria submitted a draft resolution providing that the First Committee should invite the Republic of Korea, and also the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which had asked to participate in the Committee's discussions, to send representatives to state their views on the Korean question. The representative of the United States of America then proposed orally that the First Committee should invite only a representative of the Republic of Korea and moved that this proposal be given priority in the vote. The United States proposal was adopted by 44 votes to 5, with 9 abstentions, and the Syrian draft resolution was thereafter rejected by a roll-call vote of 34 to 14, with 10 abstentions. A motion by the representative of India to exclude the representative of the Republic of Korea from participation in the discussion of the two sub-items submitted by India was rejected by 27 votes to

10, with 21 abstentions. The representative of India subsequently proposed that the sub-item concerning the reports of the Repatriation Commission should not be discussed at the tenth session; this proposal was adopted by 27 votes to none, with 29 abstentions.

During the general debate, the United States submitted a draft resolution which, after modification by its sponsor, provided, *inter alia*, that the General Assembly (1) having noted the report of UNCURK; (2) recalling that, in resolution 811 (IX), in approving the report of the fifteen Governments participating in the Geneva Conference on behalf of the United Nations, the Assembly had expressed the hope that it would soon prove possible to make progress towards achievement by peaceful means of a unified, independent and democratic Korea under a representative form of government; (3) noting that paragraph 62 of the Armistice Agreement of 27 July 1953 provided that the Agreement was to remain in effect until expressly superseded; (4) would reaffirm its intention to continue to seek an early solution of the Korean question in accordance with the objectives of the United Nations; and (5) would urge that continuing efforts should be made to achieve these objectives.

The United States representative stated that, although there had been no renewal of aggression in Korea, no progress had been made towards the reunification of a country divided through the intransigence of the Powers which exercised military and political control in the north. Supervision by the United Nations of free elections in order to establish a unified, independent and democratic Korea had not been accepted by the communists in the course of the past year. They had contented themselves with proposing either limited meetings between groups in North and South Korea on questions of trade and travel, or a large-scale conference on Asian problems. Such proposals, intended to undermine the results of the United Nations collective action, could not be seriously considered. The Armistice Agreement would, therefore, probably have to continue to serve as the official basis of agreement with the communists. They had nevertheless violated that agreement in many respects, particularly by introducing illegally into Korea tanks, heavy artillery and 400 to 500 airplanes. Verification of the alleged withdrawal of communist troops had been rendered impossible. The United Nations, for its part, had withdrawn a much larger proportion of non-Korean troops, the withdrawal of which had been verified by the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission. The increase in the number of South Korean troops had been entirely consistent with the provision of the armistice. UNCURK should continue its useful work with its terms of reference unaltered.

The United States draft resolution was supported, among others, by the representatives of the United Kingdom, Brazil, Australia, Belgium, Peru, the Netherlands, China, Thailand, Turkey, New Zealand and Mexico. They stressed the importance of the maintenance of the armistice and the necessity of truly free all-Korean elections under impartial supervision. They maintained that the setting up of a commission on which North and South Korea would have equal representation, as well as of an organ to supervise elections on which communist and non-communist nations would be equally represented, would be wholly ineffective in practice, as the operation of those organs would be paralysed by a "built-in" communist veto as had been the case with the Supervisory Commission. In the absence of any new proposal, further consideration of the Korean problem was futile and there would be no point in organizing another conference at the present time.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that it was quite abnormal for foreign troops to remain in Korea, and that the proposals of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China for the simultaneous withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea were still rejected by certain States which maintained armed forces in that country. The solution of the Korean problem was primarily the concern of the Korean people. The interested States must not impose their will on the parties in Korea. Consequently, free all-Korean elections should be conducted, under the supervision of an impartial, international organ, on the basis of an agreement between North Korea and South Korea. The initiative of the North Korean Government in seeking a *rapprochement* with South Korea was noteworthy. It had proposed the creation of an all-Korean committee to seek accord on the establishment of economic and cultural relations between North and South Korea; it had furthermore suggested that a conference of representatives of the two parts of Korea should be convened with the wide participation of Asian countries or that a joint session of the North and South Korean Parliaments should be held. In the meantime, the peaceful settlement of the Korean question had been endangered by the South Korean campaign for the preparation of aggression against North Korea, and by a disproportionate increase, contrary to the Armistice Agreement, in the number of South Korean troops. The reports of the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency and of UNCURK showed that South Korea's military expenditure had more than doubled in the fiscal year 1955 and that twenty active divisions and ten reserve divisions were being organized. Contrary to the demand of the South Korean authorities, the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission, as well as the Armistice Agreement, should be maintained.

The representative of Poland stated that the operation of the Supervisory Commission in South Korea had been obstructed and restricted. The charges that the North Korean Government had brought in 400 to 500 military aircraft were unfounded. On the other hand, South Korean authorities were continuously making efforts to increase their military strength. In violation of the Armistice Agreement, the South Korean Government was even asking for atomic weapons.

The representative of the Republic of Korea declared that, if the tendency of representatives from communist nations to attempt to consolidate the *status quo* in Korea continued, there could be no doubt about the fallacy of the so-called "Geneva spirit". The will of the Korean people should be ascertained in free elections to be conducted under United Nations observation. Further postponement of a solution would only aid the strategy of communist imperialism and create a feeling that the *status quo* was being accepted. The Republic of Korea was dissatisfied with the Armistice Agreement, which it had not signed; the United Nations should declare that that Agreement, continuously violated by the communists, was no longer operative and demand the withdrawal of the Chinese communist army from Korean soil.

A number of representatives stressed the necessity of more conciliatory approach in dealing with the Korean question. The representative of Canada suggested the adoption of a more flexible attitude on the exact nature of the provisions for impartial, international supervision of all-Korean elections. There might well be a distinction between the attitude adopted towards the two parties in Korea during the period before the aggression had been repelled, and the attitude that should be adopted at the present stage. Unification of Korea could be achieved only by negotiations between those who were in a position to bring about unification. The United Nations stood to lose more by maintaining too intransigent a position than by playing its part as an advocate and promoter of a peaceful settlement.

The representative of India said that, while the question of free elections was one of principle, the way such elections should be held was a question of procedure. As Sir Anthony Eden had stated at the Geneva Conference, it was possible to find a body of Member nations which had not taken part in the war to conduct the elections or to take other steps towards unification in an impartial way. The First Committee was not a forum where the work of the Supervisory Commission could be examined, because that Commission was, according to the Armistice Agreement, responsible only to the Military Armistice Commission. The discussion of alleged violations of the armistice was consequently out of place in the present debate. Moreover, had those violations been really serious, there would have been war in Korea. The United Nations should actively encourage contacts between the two parts of Korea. The idea that unification could be achieved by the absorption of one side by the other should be dispelled. The United Nations must get away from the language of ultimatum and adopt the language of conciliation.

On 22 November, the First Committee adopted the United States draft resolution as a whole by 45 votes to none, with 11 abstentions, rejecting, by 39 votes to 9, with 8 abstentions, a Polish amendment which proposed that the reference in the preamble to the General Assembly's approval of the report of the fifteen Governments participating in the Geneva Conference should be deleted, on the grounds that the report was one-sided and biased.

On 29 November, the General Assembly adopted the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee by 44 votes to none, with 11 abstentions (resolution 910 A (X)).

Speaking on the problem of the ex-prisoners of the Korean war, the representative of India submitted a draft resolution which, after revision, provided that the General Assembly, observing that a number of ex-prisoners of the Korean war remained temporarily in India, would note with appreciation that the Governments of Argentina and Brazil had offered to resettle as many of the ex-prisoners as opted to settle in their respective countries, and request the Governments of those Members which were able to do so to assist in bringing about a full solution of this problem by accepting for resettlement those ex-prisoners not covered by the present offers.

On 16 November, the Secretary-General had circulated to the Members of the General Assembly a note describing his attempts to find a solution of the problem, in furtherance of his efforts which had been reported to the Assembly at its ninth session. Consultations had been continued with the Government of India and with the delegations of those countries to which the ex-prisoners had expressed a wish to go. Subsequently, the Secretary-General had asked the Permanent Representatives of all the Latin American countries whether their Governments could contribute to a solution of the problem in the near future. The note stated that in August the Government of Argentina had offered to receive six of the ex-prisoners, and gave details of consultations with the Permanent Representative of Brazil.

In the First Committee, the representatives of Brazil and India gave information on the latest developments. Consultations between India, Brazil and Argentina had resulted in agreement to receive all those ex-prisoners who opted to live in their respective countries. Gratitude was expressed to India, Brazil and Argentina for their contribution to the solution of this delicate problem.

The draft resolution proposed by India was adopted by the First Committee on 22 November, by 50 votes to none, with 6 abstentions. On 29 November, the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee was adopted by the General Assembly by 48 votes to none, with 6 abstentions (resolution 910 B (X)).

(*b*) Relief and rehabilitation of Korea

(i) *Report of the Agent General of the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency*

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 410 (V), the Agent General submitted to the Assembly, for consideration at its tenth session, an operational report covering the period 1 September 1954 to 30 June 1955. The activities of the Agency during that period were carried out in accordance with resolution 725 (VIII) of 7 December 1953, and resolution 828 (IX) of 14 December 1954, which stressed the Assembly's desire that the implementation of the programmes approved in resolution 725 (VIII) should be achieved to the maximum extent possible. The report noted that numerous appeals to obtain pledges and contributions had been made on behalf of the Agency by the Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds. The Committee, during the period under review, had advised the Secretary-General, who in turn had advised the Agent General, that little likelihood existed that further substantial sums could be raised.

The General Assembly at its tenth session, by resolution 920 (X), urged the expeditious implementation of the approved programmes to the maximum extent possible within available funds. The planning and execution of the Agency's activities during the period under review have been conducted in accordance with the desire expressed in this resolution.

(ii) *Consideration by the General Assembly at its tenth session*

The General Assembly, at its tenth session, referred the report of the Agent General to the Second Committee, where it was considered at two meetings held on 4 and 5 October 1955. The Committee also had before it a resolution sponsored by Australia, Belgium, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States

of America, under which the Assembly would: (1) commend the Agent General for the excellent progress made by the Agency in pursuing its mission of assisting the Korean people to relieve suffering and to repair the devastation caused by aggression; (2) stress the desire that the approved programmes of the Agency should be expeditiously implemented to the maximum extent possible within available funds; and (3) express appreciation for the valuable and continuing assistance given to the Agency by specialized agencies and by voluntary non-governmental organizations.

The Agent General, in a statement before the Committee, said that the desire of the General Assembly expressed in resolution 828 (IX) was being met. The Agency's work would be pushed forward during 1955 and 1956 and, on some projects, into 1957. When all projects were completed, they would constitute a foundation upon which further economic progress could be based. Although the anticipated goal of $266 million had not been achieved, nevertheless the $140 million in contributions which UNKRA had received would provide Korea with a substantial start on the road to economic recovery. The Agent General noted the close working partnership between UNKRA and the Government of the Republic of Korea, and the willingness on the part of the local population to join with the Agency in shouldering the heavy burdens of reconstruction. The collective action being undertaken in Korea was something new in history. The Korean people had gained a new understanding of what the United Nations meant. They saw it not only as a means of building a secure world but also as a constructive force in the daily struggle for a better life. This concept of the United Nations must not be lost, and the Organization has a great and continuing stake in the welfare of the Republic of Korea.

Most of the supporters of the draft resolution noted with gratification the progress achieved. The Agency was a symbol of what collective action among nations could do to make life a little better for men, women and children who had already been called upon to endure far more than human beings should. It was noted with regret that not all Member States had contributed to UNKRA and that the total funds available had been less than the General Assembly had hoped.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics welcomed the fact that some progress had been made in the South Korean economy. He referred to progress made by North Korea towards restoration and development of the civilian sector of the economy, to the thousand million roubles' worth of assistance provided by the USSR, and to assistance provided by the People's Republic of China. The representative of Poland noted that his country was helping in the reconstruction and economic development of North Korea by sending capital equipment, by participating in the work of reconstruction, and by making the services of architects and physicians available. However, the losses caused by the war had been so heavy that the country's economy was in a difficult situation and, although much successful work had been done, serious problems were still arising.

On 5 October, the Second Committee adopted the draft resolution as a whole by 48 votes to none, with 9 abstentions. The Assembly thereafter, on 25 October 1955, adopted the draft resolution proposed by the Second Committee by 47 votes to none, with 8 abstentions.

(iii) *Consideration of the report of the Agent General by the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-first session*

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 410 (V), the reports of the Agent General are submitted to the Secretary-General for simultaneous transmission to the Assembly, to the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea, and to the Economic and Social Council. At its twenty-first session, held in New York in April 1956, the Council discussed a draft resolution on the relief and rehabilitation of Korea submitted by Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States which, after noting that the activities of UNKRA were regularly and closely examined by the UNKRA Advisory Committee and reviewed each year by the Assembly, that the main lines of the remaining UNKRA programmes had been established and that the time-table by which the report of the Agent General was necessarily issued each year for the Assembly made impractical the continuing review of the work of UNKRA by the Council, as contemplated by Assembly resolution 410 (V), would recommend to the Assembly that resolution 410 (V) should be amended to delete the provision requiring the Secretary-General to submit the report to the Council. Virtually all of the speakers expressed appreciation for the work done by UNKRA. The discussion stressed the procedural nature of the matter raised in the draft resolution, and noted that the report was carefully reviewed by the General Assembly and the UNKRA Advisory Committee.

The representative of the USSR pointed out that the report did not shed full light on the situation in Korea because it made no comment with respect to North Korea. He emphasized that it was desirable to establish normal trade channels between South and North Korea which would assist in the rehabilitation of the entire nation.

The draft resolution was adopted, on 24 April 1956, by 15 votes to none, with 3 abstentions, and will be before the Assembly for consideration at the eleventh session.

(iv) *Programme of the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency*

During the year ending 15 June 1956, project implementation activities continued at a record high level. The period saw the initiation of major construction on two of the largest projects to be undertaken by the Agency: the Mungyong cement plant, at a cost of $8,400,000, and a flat glass plant, at a cost of over $2 million. In addition, work was started on the Seoul National Medical Centre, towards which an initial $4,400,000 has been allotted and which calls eventually for a total of almost $12 million, including technical services. By 15 June, the Agent General had obligated $130 million for the approved programmes. Over 629,000 metric tons of machinery, equipment and supplies valued at $74 million had arrived in Korea, and technical assistance valued at $10,700,000 had been rendered. Procurement of additional substantial quantities of machinery, equipment and supplies also had been effected. These were scheduled to arrive at a monthly rate of $1,500,000 through early 1957.

During the period under review, a re-examination was made of the pledges of Member and non-member States, giving consideration to stipulations by certain Governments that payment of the full amounts of their pledges was conditional upon certain matching contribu-

ions being received from other Governments. Adjustment of the pledged amounts reduced the over-all total t 15 June 1956 to $141,169,753, from the earlier eported $212,064,629. At that date, $139,893,241 in ash and kind had been received, representing 99.1 per ent of the adjusted pledges.

The annual report of the Agent General submitted to he tenth session of the General Assembly, covering the ear ended 30 June 1955, fittingly described the activiies of the Agency as having reached a stage of "dyamic progress". The period now under consideration as witnessed not only a continuation of this progress ut a still further intensification of effort. This is espeially discernible in the industrial and mining fields here, *inter alia,* projects to expand cement, textile and aper production facilities, to introduce flat glass proluction, and to increase coal, talc, graphite, iron and old output are actively under way. Work on vocational raining centres, classroom construction, housing, orhanages and welfare institutions, and rehabilitation of he physically handicapped has continued. Further assistance has been provided to voluntary agency programmes in Korea, including shipment of supplies for heir projects, while technical personnel continue to be urnished to the United Nations Command. Substantial uantities of essential commodities have also arrived, mported for the two-fold purpose of increasing domesic production and generating local currency for investment project needs. Many of the fisheries rehabilitation rojects are approaching completion. The Agency's orestry programme was concluded, and irrigation projct activities are being wound up. The combined effect f these activities has presented further tangible evidence to the Korean people of the continuing interest of he United Nations in their welfare and their nation.

The Agent General will submit to the General Assembly at its eleventh session an annual report for the inancial year 1955-1956. A more detailed account of UNKRA activities will be contained therein.

It will be recalled that an agreement delineating areas f responsibility for the various aspects of the Korean conomic aid programmes was signed on 8 September 1953 between the Agent General of UNKRA and the United Nations Command Economic Co-ordinator. With the decline in contributions for the UNKRA programme, and the consequent assumption by other aid gencies of greater responsibility for reconstruction and ehabilitation activities in Korea, the amendment of the greement became desirable. Effective 1 February 1956, signed amendment provides that: (1) UNKRA will ontinue to be responsible for the execution and implementation of its projects undertaken pursuant to the rogrammes approved for the financial years 1952-1953, 953-1954 and 1954-1955 and for such additional projcts as may be specifically agreed; (2) the responsibility or any new projects in those fields of activity which rior to 1 February 1956 had been assigned to UNKRA ave been assigned to the Office of the United Nations ommand Economic Co-ordinator, including the responibility for both programming and implementing the ew projects. The amendment reserves to the Agency he flexibility needed to complete its programmes, while ermitting an effective development of the programmes nd projects of other aid agencies. The result will be n uninterrupted reconstruction and rehabilitation effort n Korea. In this connexion, the Agency has continued o make staff available for secondment to the United Nations Command, within the limits of funds already planned and approved, despite the disbandment of the Korea Civil Assistance Command on 30 November 1955. This has assisted the Office of the Economic Co-ordinator in its assumption of added responsibilities. The staff thus seconded has then been assigned by the United Nations Command to the Office of the Economic Co-ordinator for operational duty. Efficient functioning of the aid programmes will thus continue during the time replacements are being recruited by the Economic Co-ordinator.

(v) *Emergency assistance for the civil population of Korea*

Emergency relief assistance continued to be provided to the Republic of Korea, although on a reduced scale. By 15 June 1956, $479,709,357 had been contributed by thirty-nine Member and non-member States, of which $427,742,247 represented contributions by the United States of America. Contributions from specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations totalled an additional $37,400,000 as at 15 June 1956.

12. Complaint of detention and imprisonment of United Nations military personnel in violation of the Korean Armistice Agreement

As indicated in the previous annual report, the General Assembly, by resolution 906 (IX) of 10 December 1954, requested the Secretary-General to seek the release, in accordance with the Korean Armistice Agreement, of eleven United Nations Command personnel and all other captured personnel of the United Nations Command still detained. The Secretary-General was further requested to make, by the means most appropriate in his judgement, continuing and unremitting efforts to this end.

In a report dated 9 September 1955, the Secretary-General stated that he had continued, within the framework of the contact established by his visit to Peking at the beginning of 1955, an exchange of views with Mr. Chou En-Lai, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. The contact had been maintained mainly through a series of communications transmitted by the Swedish Embassy in Peking. He had also received valuable assistance from representatives of the Governments of other Member States.

By a letter addressed to the Secretary-General, given to the Swedish Ambassador in Peking in the early afternoon of 29 May 1955 (New York time), Mr. Chou En-Lai had announced that an investigation of the case of four detained flyers had been completed and that it had been decided that they should be deported immediately from the territory of the People's Republic of China. The four men had arrived in Hong Kong on 31 May 1955.

By an oral message given to the Swedish Ambassador in Peking at 1.00 a.m. (New York time) on 1 August 1955, to be transmitted to the Secretary-General, Mr. Chou En-Lai had announced his Government's decision to release as soon as feasible the eleven American flyers who had been detained and imprisoned and that an announcement to that effect would be made in Peking the same day at 10.00 a.m. (New York time). The eleven men had arrived in Hong Kong on 4 August 1955.

The Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China had expressed his hope that the contact established would be continued. In reply, the Secretary-General had stated that he shared that hope.

13. The question of West Irian (West New Guinea)

By a letter dated 10 August 1955, the representatives of Afghanistan, Burma, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Thailand and Yemen requested the inclusion of the question of West Irian (West New Guinea) in the agenda of the tenth session of the General Assembly. In an accompanying explanatory memorandum, they recalled that the Assembly, at its ninth session, had failed to adopt a resolution recommended by the First Committee which would have expressed the hope that the Governments of Indonesia and the Netherlands would pursue their endeavours to find a solution of the dispute in conformity with the principles of the Charter. Since the close of the ninth session, it had been urged, both by the December 1954 meeting of the Prime Ministers of the five Colombo Powers and by the April 1955 Asian-African Conference held at Bandung, that the two Governments should re-open negotiations on the issue. Accordingly, it was considered appropriate to bring the question to the General Assembly in order that it might again consider the problem with a view to bringing both parties concerned together in resumed negotiations for a peaceful solution to their dispute.

At a meeting of the General Committee held on 29 September 1955, the representative of New Zealand proposed that the Committee should recommend that the Assembly postpone for the time being consideration of the request for inclusion of the question, since both parties had expressed a desire for an improvement in their mutual relations and, accordingly, the United Nations should give them more time in which to consult together and reconcile their views. He further proposed that the Committee should give priority to his proposal.

The motion to give priority to the New Zealand proposal was not adopted, and the General Committee then decided, by 7 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions, to recommend to the General Assembly to include the question of West Irian (West New Guinea) in its agenda.

On 3 October 1955, the Assembly, by a roll-call vote of 31 to 18, with 10 abstentions, decided to include the item in the agenda, and referred it to the First Committee. Before the voting, the representatives of the Netherlands and Australia had explained their reasons for considering that a discussion of the question would be neither desirable nor useful, while the representatives of Indonesia, Bolivia and Thailand had expressed the belief that consideration by the United Nations would be of assistance to the parties in reaching a peaceful solution.

In a joint statement issued on 7 December 1955, the two Governments announced that they had decided to hold a conference, which would open on 10 December, and that among the items included in the agenda was a discussion of certain problems concerning New Guinea, it being understood that with respect to its sovereignty each party maintained its own position.

On 12 December, in the First Committee, the representative of Ecuador introduced a draft resolution sponsored by Ecuador, India, New Zealand, Norway and Syria, by which the General Assembly, after taking note of the joint statement referred to above, would express the hope that the negotiations mentioned in that statement would be fruitful. On behalf of the co-sponsors, the representative of Ecuador expressed the hope that the Committee would adopt the draft resolution without discussion of the substance of the question, as its adoption would assist the two Governments in their efforts to solve the problem. The Netherlands and Indonesia had been informed of the draft resolution and had made no objection to it.

The First Committee adopted the draft resolution without discussion and without a vote.

On 16 December, the General Assembly adopted, also without a vote, the draft resolution which had been recommended by the First Committee (resolution 915 (X)).

14. Application, under the auspices of the United Nations, of the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples in the case of the population of the Island of Cyprus

By a letter dated 23 July 1955 addressed to the Secretary-General, the Permanent Representative of Greece requested the inclusion in the agenda of the tenth session of the General Assembly of the item "Application, under the auspices of the United Nations of the principles of equal rights and self-determination of peoples in the case of the population of the Island of Cyprus". The letter stated that the item which had been inscribed in the agenda of the previous session had remained pending in the United Nations as a result of resolution 814 (IX) according to which, on 17 December 1954, the Assembly had postponed for the time being consideration of the subject.

When the General Committee, on 21 September 1955, discussed the question of the inclusion of the item, the representatives of Greece and Turkey were invited to the Committee table to participate in the debate.

The representative of the United Kingdom stated that his Government had invited the Greek and Turkish Governments to a conference in London to examine the question of Cyprus, despite the fact that it was exclusively a British responsibility. The conference had led to no agreement, but the United Kingdom was, nevertheless, convinced that a solution could be worked out if negotiations could be pursued in a calm atmosphere. The matter fell outside the competence of the United Nations. Turkey had assigned the island to Britain in 1878, and British sovereignty over it had been confirmed by the Lausanne Treaty of 1923 to which Greece was a party. Now Greece was seeking to establish its own sovereignty over Cyprus through a campaign of incitement to violence and subversion. The United Nations would be taking a dangerous course if it supported such ambitions.

The representative of Greece stated that his Government was only sponsoring a petition put forward by a distinct national entity which was entitled to claim the application of the principles of the Charter relating to equal rights and self-determination of peoples. Greece had tried in vain every expedient to obtain a settlemen

outside the United Nations. The British claim of domestic jurisdiction in regard to Cyprus was irrelevant in itself, and the more so now since the United Kingdom had discussed the question at an international conference. Since the previous session of the Assembly, the situation had deteriorated considerably. The proposals made by the United Kingdom at the London conference had been neither constructive nor democratic; the recent tragic events in the Balkans could be attributed directly to that ill-fated conference. It was the duty of the United Nations to take up the question of Cyprus. Greece, for its part, would continue to approach the question in a constructive spirit.

The representative of Turkey opposed the inclusion of the item in the agenda as it involved the question of domestic jurisdiction. Moreover, the proposed item was not based on the principle of self-determination, but was aimed at annexation. The item also envisaged the unilateral revision of an international treaty.

By 7 votes to 4, with 4 abstentions, the General Committee decided to recommend to the Assembly not to include the question in its agenda.

On 23 September, the General Assembly adopted, by a roll-call vote of 28 to 22, with 10 abstentions, the recommendation of the General Committee, after a discussion during which the representatives of Greece, Turkey and the United Kingdom developed the arguments they had already advanced in the General Committee. The representatives of Poland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Ecuador, Guatemala and Bolivia supported inclusion of the item. The representatives of Thailand, the United States of America, Iraq and Peru spoke in support of the General Committee's recommendation.

By a letter dated 13 March 1956 addressed to the Secretary-General, the Permanent Representative of Greece requested the inclusion of the same item in the provisional agenda of the eleventh session of the General Assembly. The letter was followed, on 12 June, by an explanatory memorandum in which, after reviewing the history of the case, the Greek Government pointed out that the breakdown of the negotiations between the British Governor and Archbishop Makarios, which had been reopened, was due to the refusal of the United Kingdom Government to recognize the right of self-determination of the people of Cyprus and to concede real self-government to the Cypriots for what would have been a transitional period.

Meanwhile, in Cyprus, the memorandum stated, a powerful military machine of about 20,000 troops had been set up and harsh repression designed to break the people's morale had been launched. Human rights and liberties had been suppressed and, with the official purpose of establishing "law and order" against terrorism, the Island had been transformed into a huge concentration camp. In the context of the situation in Cyprus, maintenance of law and order meant the arbitrary imposition of British domination and colonial rule upon a reluctant and subjected population.

The Greek Government, in taking the Cyprus issue to the United Nations in 1954, had tried to prevent violence. Had the General Assembly carried out its responsibilities, the world would not be faced with such a critical situation as had now developed in Cyprus. The war waged by the British against the Greek population in Cyprus had had an immediate and understandable repercussion in Greece, the impact of which was heavy on the general conditions of peace and security of the world.

The United Kingdom Government had officially stated that Cyprus would be kept under colonial rule because of specific strategic and political considerations. In particular, Cyprus was to be used for the defence of British oil interests in the Middle East.

All the peoples living in the area were concerned by the problem, which, indeed, in itself constituted a challenge to the United Nations.

15. The question of the representation of China

At the opening meeting of the tenth session of the General Assembly, on 20 September 1955, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted a draft resolution providing that the Assembly would decide that the representative of China in the Assembly and in the other organs of the United Nations should be those appointed by the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China. The USSR representative stated that the restoration of the legitimate rights of the People's Republic and its participation as a full Member of the United Nations was indispensable both for the promotion of international peace and security and for ensuring the international prestige of the Organization. The People's Republic of China had played an outstanding and positive role in the Bandung Conference as well as in other international developments. To continue to ignore the inalienable rights of the People's Republic meant the further violation of the Charter and the principles of international law. More favourable conditions were in existence since the Geneva Conference for the solution of outstanding international problems such as the restoration of the legitimate rights of the People's Republic. The USSR representative concluded that there were no grounds for postponement of a decision on this matter.

The United States of America submitted a draft resolution providing that the General Assembly would decide not to consider at its tenth regular session during 1955 any proposals to exclude the representatives of the Republic of China or to seat the representatives of the People's Republic of China. He also proposed that the Assembly should first consider the United States draft resolution.

The representative of China stated that his delegation had since 1949 demonstrated that the Chinese communist régime was a Soviet creation which served as a vehicle of international communist aggression. The Chinese communist troops had remained in Korea and had consolidated their military position there in persistent violation of the armistice terms. Not only was the Peiping régime not supported by the Chinese people, but the inhumanities still being perpetrated on the Chinese mainland constituted an unparalleled crime of genocide. Such a régime was unfit for United Nations membership. As to the right of his Government to represent China, he asserted that it was that Government which had fought against aggression in the Second World War, had taken an active part in the founding of the United Nations and had since been fulfilling all its international obligations as a loyal Member of the Organization. The right of his Government to represent

China was undeniable, unless all the Member States were prepared to repudiate the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations.

Supporting the United States proposal, the representative of the United Kingdom considered that it would be unwise to debate the question of Chinese representation at the present time. To force a vote on an issue on which the Assembly was so deeply divided would do more harm than good, and would place an intolerable strain upon the United Nations.

The representative of Colombia said that it would be a legal absurdity to admit the People's Republic of China to membership so long as the General Assembly's resolution declaring it an aggressor still stood. The matter of membership could only be considered if this Government abandoned the idea of aggression, accepted a cease-fire in Formosa and assumed all the obligations of the Charter.

The representative of India stated that since the Geneva Conference all had been inspired with the hope that an atmosphere of conciliation was emerging. Moreover, it was a recognized fact that the solution of the problems of the Far East required settlement of the question of the representation of China in the United Nations. He hoped that the Assembly would make its contribution towards speeding the process of conciliation so that the Government of the People's Republic of China, representing 600 million people, would have a voice in the Organization.

After a discussion in which the representatives of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Burma, Yugoslavia, Indonesia and Iraq participated, the General Assembly adopted, by 41 votes to 10, with 7 abstentions, the United States proposal to vote first on the United States draft resolution. The draft resolution was then adopted by a roll-call vote of 42 to 12, with 6 abstentions (resolution 990 (X)).

The question of the representation of China has also been raised in various other organs and bodies of the United Nations during the period covered by the present report.

Chapter II

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

A. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS

1. Economic surveys

The *World Economic Survey, 1955,* was presented to the Economic and Social Council and to the Members of the United Nations in the early part of June 1956. Part I of the *Survey* reviews economic developments during the first decade after the Second World War, in response to a Council decision of 6 December 1955. Part II is devoted to an examination of recent developments in the world economy. The *Survey* states that the economic record of the first post-war decade has been superior to that of the decade following the First World War. Though the damage and destruction of war were greater by far this time, the recovery and growth of output were more rapid and more widespread. Economic crises generated by the war were more readily overcome and even long-standing problems of imbalance and stagnation yielded in part to the forces of growth. At the same time, however, the problem of mass poverty in a large part of the world remained as stubborn as ever. In only a few of the under-developed countries had *per capita* economic growth been consolidated to a point where it could be considered self-cumulating. Economic development had been accepted almost universally as the world's overriding economic objective. It was open to question, however, whether the scope and scale of present programmes represented the world's optimum contribution towards the accepted objective.

In reviewing recent economic developments, the *Survey* notes that economic activity in the industrially developed countries of Western Europe continued to increase in 1955, while in North America the economic expansion in 1955 marked a recovery from the 1953-1954 recession. The dynamic factors in the expansion in industrial countries were increases in fixed investment and in the consumption of durable goods. A number of Governments had become increasingly concerned with over-expansion and introduced restrictive economic policies, predominantly in the monetary sphere. The stimulus to business activity in primary producing countries resulting from the expansion in the industrial countries was, on the whole, limited. While the demand for certain raw materials required by the engineering industries increased, the demand for most agricultural products was weak. In assessing the outlook for 1956, most Governments in the developed private enterprise countries expected that industrial output and trade would continue to rise, but at somewhat lower rates than in the previous two years. Some under-developed countries expected a deterioration in their balance of payments in 1956 due to a weakening of raw material prices; a number anticipated an improvement in internal economic balance as a result of various measures introduced with the object of curbing internal demand. In the centrally planned economies, economic activity continued to expand in 1955, generally at an accelerated pace. In contrast to preceding years, the rise in industrial production was accompanied by a considerable advance in agricultural output.

A study was prepared on the Middle East entitled *Economic Developments in the Middle East, 1954-1955,* and issued as a supplement to the *World Economic Survey, 1955.* It deals with the movements in the last two years of national income, agricultural and industrial production, transportation, petroleum activities, foreign trade and payments and of the monetary and fiscal situation. A final chapter is devoted to a survey of the development plans in the region.

Two studies on Africa were prepared in the period under review. One of these, entitled *Economic Developments in Africa, 1954-1955,* also issued as a supplement to the *World Economic Survey, 1955,* summarizes major developments in production, trade and investment in Africa in these years, distinguishing the differing rates of economic growth in the main regions. The other, entitled *Aspects of Water Resource Development in Africa,* analyses significant aspects of the water problem in relation to economic development in Africa and the measures taken by Governments of selected countries to deal with their particular water problems.

2. Economic development of under-developed countries

(*a*) Financing of economic development

(i) *Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development*

The Economic and Social Council, at its twentieth session, had before it the report prepared by Mr. Raymond Scheyven and the eight-member Advisory Group of Experts on the proposed Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development—the report contained chapters and recommendations relating to the role of the Fund; its resources; its grants or loans; the integration of its activities with the development programmes of assisted countries; and the structure of the Fund, including its working relationship with other

international agencies. The contents of the report were described briefly in last year's annual report of the Secretary-General.

The Council, on 5 August 1955, adopted resolution 583 A (XX) by which it noted that, consequent upon recent developments in international co-operation, the Sub-Committee of the United Nations Disarmament Commission would be called upon to work towards the development of an acceptable system of disarmament, the achievement of which would, among other results, release vast material resources to be devoted to the peaceful economic development of nations for raising their well-being, as well as for assistance to under-developed countries. The Council expressed great appreciation of the work performed by Mr. Scheyven and the group of experts associated with him, and recommended that the General Assembly should invite Governments to give careful consideration to the report and to transmit to the Secretary-General, not later than 31 March 1956, their views on the experts' recommendations with respect to the establishment, operation and management of the proposed Special Fund. It recommended also that the Assembly should establish an *ad hoc* committee to analyze the comments of Governments and submit such interim report as it might be in a position to make to the Council at its twenty-second session, and to submit its final report at the twenty-third session, it being understood that the *ad hoc* committee, in making its reports, would not commit any Member Government.

The Assembly at its tenth session took note of the report of Mr. Scheyven and the Group of Experts, the comments thereon of the Economic and Social Council and the statement made by Mr. Scheyven before the Second Committee of the Assembly. It expressed its great appreciation of the work performed by Mr. Scheyven, assisted by the Secretary-General and the Group of Experts. The resolution requested the Secretary-General to invite the States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies in the economic and social sphere to transmit to him, not later than 31 March 1956, their views, as definitely as possible, relating to the establishment, role, structure and operations of a Special Fund, bearing in mind particularly eight specific questions (which were enumerated in an annex) in order that such views and replies might provide material for the statute of the Fund when it was decided to establish such a Fund.

The Assembly also established an *ad hoc* committee composed of representatives of sixteen Governments to analyze the replies and comments of Governments and to prepare an interim report for submission to the Council at its twenty-second session and to the Assembly at its eleventh session. A final report would be made to the Council at its twenty-third session. The Assembly, in the final paragraph of the resolution, expressed the hope that, in view of the increased support for the proposed establishment of a Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development, conditions more favourable to the establishment of an international Fund would be created in the near future, and that savings from internationally supervised world-wide disarmament would provide additional means for financing the economic development of under-developed countries, and further the aims and objectives of such a Fund.

The *Ad Hoc* Committee held its first session at Headquarters from 7 May to 6 June 1956. The members were representatives of the following Governments, appointed by the President of the General Assembly, with the Assembly's concurrence: Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, France, India, Indonesia, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Yugoslavia. Requests for their views were sent to eighty-three Governments; forty-six Governments replied in time for their views to be studied by the Committee at its first session.

An interim report was prepared for submission to the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-second session. In this report, the *Ad Hoc* Committee presented a summary, an analysis, and conclusions emerging from the analysis concerning the position of Governments with regard to the establishment of a Special Fund, as well as concerning their replies to the eight specific questions asked in the annex to the resolution. These questions related to the following: role of the Fund; nature of contributions; initial sum to be collected; terms under which assistance would be given; structure; relationship with other agencies; and mechanism for the appraisal of projects.

In the conclusions to the report, the Committee presented a representative picture of the Special Fund as it emerged from an analysis of the most frequently held views put forward by replying Governments. The financing by the Fund would be more especially for economic and social infra-structure, although broader development programmes, including directly productive projects in the field of industry and agriculture had also been mentioned by many countries. The views expressed with regard to the initial sum needed indicated amounts of the order of $200 million to $250 million. The Special Fund would be established and maintained by voluntary contributions, the size of which might be determined by Governments on the basis of some objective criteria. Contributions were thought of as being renewable annually or at other regular intervals. With some exceptions relating to fully convertible contributions or to contributions partly in kind, Governments in general envisaged that contributions would be made in local currency convertible into other currencies only to the extent permitted by the Governments concerned. Assistance was thought of in the form of both grants and loans, especially long-term low-interest loans. The Special Fund would be an autonomous body within the framework of the United Nations, co-operating closely with other appropriate United Nations organs and agencies. Its general structure was envisaged as the one proposed by the Group of Experts, with a general council, an executive board, a director-general, a joint committee and a staff, which would be kept as small as possible; there was, however, some disagreement concerning the joint committee.

The Economic and Social Council will discuss the interim report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee at its twenty-second session, which opens on 9 July 1956.

(ii) *International flow of private capital*

The General Assembly, at its ninth session, requested the Secretary-General to prepare an annual report on the international flow of private capital and its contribution to an expanding international economy, and on measures taken by Governments affecting such flow.

In response to the request, a report entitled *The International Flow of Private Capital, 1953-1955,* has been prepared for submission to the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-second session. The study reveals that, in the past several years, the outflow of private capital from the United States of America for long-term investment has been maintained and that several countries of Western Europe have resumed capital exports on a modest scale. The capital flowing into international investment has been shared by both developed and less-developed countries. The bulk of the funds absorbed by the less developed countries have been directed into the extractive industries. To an increasing extent, however, foreign capital is being invested in manufacturing industries in several less-developed countries whose economies have been expanding; the tendency is frequently accompanied by protection of the industry concerned against imports. While the general framework of governmental regulations affecting the international flow of private capital has in most instances remained unchanged, the study notes a widespread tendency in the past two or three years to render the regulations less restrictive and cumbersome, particularly with regard to exchange control over remittance of income from investments. Also, a number of countries have provided special incentives to attract private capital from abroad or, in the case of certain capital exporting countries, to stimulate its outflow.

(*b*) Industrialization and productivity

The Economic and Social Council, at its twenty-first session, considered two documents submitted by the Secretary-General: "Survey of Current Work on Industrialization and Productivity" and "Proposals for a Programme of Work on Industrialization and Productivity".

The survey reviewed the work currently being undertaken by the Secretariat of the United Nations at Headquarters and at the offices of the regional economic commissions and by the secretariats of the specialized and other United Nations agencies. It described the nature and scope of the relevant activities of the secretariats and listed and compared their current projects. The listing was done in tables, where the projects were classified by main subjects and by organizations; each project was briefly described, and the nature of the work, the co-operation, if any, with other organizations, the priority rating, the stage of work at the time of submitting the survey to the Council and the scheduled time for completion were indicated. In comparing the activities, the survey attempted to evaluate the relative emphasis placed on the various projects both within the area of work of each organization and in the activities of the United Nations family as a whole. Since the survey was intended as a background document in the light of which the programme of work in matters relating to industrialization and the improvement of productivity was to be prepared, it concluded by mentioning some areas in which further work by the United Nations Secretariat appeared to be desirable. An appendix to the survey contained excerpts from statements by the secretariats of certain organizations.

The proposals for a programme of work were largely based on the conclusions of the survey. They outlined a number of broad areas of work forming a general framework for the activities of the United Nations in the field of industrialization and productivity, including resources for industrialization; industry studies; special problems of small-scale industries; relationship of community development and co-operatives to the industrialization process; improvement of productive efficiency and management; financial and fiscal aspects of industrial development; power, transport and other facilities related to the process of industrialization; relationship between industrialization and agricultural development; effects of the industrialization of underdeveloped countries upon the structure and volume of the foreign trade and balance of payments of those countries; and social and demographic aspects of industrialization. The report provided a summary and evaluation of the related projects in the existing programmes of the United Nations, leading to the formulation of the suggested future plan of work, both in general terms and in the form of projects. The report also dealt with the questions of participation of various units of the Secretariat in the implementation of the programme, co-ordination of work with the specialized agencies, and methods of implementation. Projects in a few selected areas were proposed for immediate consideration. A consolidated list of current and proposed projects was annexed to the report.

The Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 597 A (XXI) in which it suggested that the Secretary-General should initiate work within available resources and requested him, with a view to developing an integrated and co-ordinated programme of work, to submit, for consideration at its twenty-second session, his views on the most suitable organizational arrangements for and the financial implications of the programme being evolved, and to submit an annual report on the progress being made in planning and implementing the programme. The Council also requested him, in planning the work, to pay particular attention to the needs of the Middle East and Africa.

(*c*) Utilization and development of resources

In October 1955, the Secretary-General published a report entitled *Non-Ferrous Metals in Under-developed Countries.* The report assessed the position of the underdeveloped countries as producers and consumers of the major non-ferrous metals; reviewed secular trends in the use of these metals as well as short-term fluctuations in demand and prices; and sought to provide an up-to-date picture of the distribution of smelting and refining capacity. Finally, the report discussed at some length the problems involved in maximizing the development potential of the various activities directly based on the exploitation of non-ferrous ore resources.

A second meeting of officers of the United Nations organizations concerned with the development and utilization of water resources was held in Geneva at the beginning of August 1955 to consider various aspects of international co-operation and co-ordination of activities in this field. A review was made of the work initiated during the previous year in hydrology, in the preparation of handbooks (on watershed management, on industrial uses of water and on national water boards), and in respect of consultation with Governments and international scientific and technical organizations interested in the field of water resources. Problems relating to further possible action for the study of legal questions, the provision of training facilities in integrated water resource development and the utilization of saline water were discussed.

The question of international co-operation with respect to water resource development was reviewed by the Secretary-General in a report, "International Co-operation with Respect to Water Resource Development", which was submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-first session. The report suggested that early international action was called for on two problems, namely, deficiencies in hydrologic data, and the implications—economic, social and administrative—of integrated river basin development. After consideration of the question, the Council unanimously adopted a resolution urging the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies to continue their consultations on water resources matters, calling to the attention of Governments the importance of demineralization of saline water and utilization of sub-soil water and urging them to exchange information on the findings of research concerned with a solution of these problems, and drawing the attention of Governments to the desirability of increased use of available technical assistance facilities, especially in the training of personnel in this field. In addition, the resolution requested the Secretary-General: (1) to make appropriate arrangements for ensuring the collection, analysis and dissemination of information on current development of water projects, research programmes and related activities; (2) to initiate, in co-operation with competent specialized agencies and with the Governments concerned, a preliminary inquiry on existing hydrologic services, plans for their extension, and conditions for the execution of these plans; (3) to constitute a panel of world-known experts for reviewing, with the assistance of the United Nations Secretariat, the administrative, economic and social implications of integrated river basin development, and for advising on the proper action (including, if they deem it advisable, the convening of an international conference) to be taken to ensure world-wide exchange of experience and data in related domains; and (4) to report to the Council, not later than its twenty-fifth session, on progress in these fields and to formulate recommendations on further action that might be taken.

The Council at its twenty-first session also adopted a resolution dealing with new sources of energy other than the atom as a factor in economic development. The resolution noted that, in view of the growth of the world population, economic development and the rise in the standard of living, the resources of energy must be constantly increased, especially in the less developed countries; noted the work done by the United Nations and the specialized agencies both on the so-called "conventional" sources of energy and on atomic energy; and noted that the United Nations should display the same interest in all new sources of energy in order to encourage their theoretical study and practical applications. Further, the Secretary-General was requested in consultation with the specialized agencies concerned: (1) to prepare, for submission to the Council at its twenty-fourth session, a report on the prospects for the practical utilization of such sources of energy as solar energy, wind energy, tidal energy, geothermic energy and the thermal energy of the seas; (2) to compile a concise bibliography of current studies and researches; and (3) for that purpose to consult Governments which have special experience or a particular interest in the matter, the under-developed countries, the specialized agencies, the competent inter-governmental bodies and any non-governmental organization which may be interested in the subject, and to obtain from them any documentary material which may be of value. The Council decided to include the question of new sources of energy other than the atom, and of their use for the purposes of economic development, in the agenda of its twenty-fourth session, with a view to examining the conditions for convening an international conference.

A third resolution on resources, adopted at the same session of the Council, concerned studies on atomic energy as a factor in economic development. This resolution, recognizing that actual and potential developments in the field of atomic energy might have profound implications in the economic sphere, particularly affecting the economic development of less developed countries, and taking into account the complexity of the subject, the diversity of studies already made or in process under various auspices, and the need for further information on which to determine its future actions in this important field, requested the Secretary-General in co-operation with the specialized agencies concerned to prepare, for submission to the Council at its twenty-fourth session, a report on possible applications of atomic energy, especially in the fields of power, industry and agriculture. The Secretary-General, in preparing the report, was recommended to survey the available studies and the research presently being undertaken in this field, and to give due consideration to the materials submitted to the International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, as well as to the views expressed during the twenty-first session of the Council. Also, the Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies were invited to make available to the Secretary-General for the purpose of his report such documentation bearing on the subject as they may be able to provide. Further, the Council requested the Secretary-General, after consultation with the Advisory Committee referred to in General Assembly resolution 912 (X) and the competent specialized agencies, to submit to it at its twenty-fourth session a report on the possibility of devoting as much as possible of the programme of the second International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy to the practical applications of nuclear energy in the interest of promoting the economic development of under-developed countries and/or the desirability of convening a separate conference on this subject. The resolution also provided for further consideration of the subject by the Council at its twenty-fourth session.

3. Economic stability and international economic relations

(i) *Full employment policies*

In November 1955, the Secretary-General sent to Governments the questionnaire for 1955-196 relating to full employment and the balance of payments. The replies of Governments are being submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-second session.

The questionnaire was a modified version of that distributed a year earlier. The revision was made in accordance with the change in presentation of the analysis of the information received. In past years, an analysis of the replies of Governments had been prepared by the Secretariat and submitted to the Council as a separate document. This was intended to assist the Council in its annual review of current and foreseeable economic trends undertaken with a view to formulating appropriate recommendations for action. Experience,

wever, had indicated that the intention of the Council uld be best served by incorporating an evaluation the current economic outlook, on the basis of replies Governments, in the *World Economic Survey, 1955*; s procedure was therefore adopted.

(ii) *Expansion of world trade*

The Council, at its twentieth session, resumed conleration of the question of expansion of world trade. had before it a study entitled *The Quest for Freer rade*, together with the *The World Economic Report, 953-1954*, the introduction to which dealt with probms relating to the subject. The Council at that session rged Governments to continue their efforts to promote e expansion of world trade. In particular, Governents were requested: (1) to reduce or remove interational trade restrictions or discriminations maintained r balance-of-payments reasons as soon as possible, ue regard being paid to the special problems arising om the development needs of under-developed counries; (2) to conduct their international trade relations nd trade policies with due regard to their possible armful effects on the economies of other countries; nd (3) to follow internal policies which would promote igh levels of activity and thereby contribute to the exansion of world trade. The Council also authorized he regional economic commissions to consider, at the equest of interested Governments, the desirability of olding inter-regional trade consultations under United Nations auspices; and it requested the Secretary-General, in the event of such consultations being held, o undertake the necessary preparatory work.

In December 1955, the Council at its resumed twenieth session requested the Secretary-General to prepare report on international procedures and bodies conerned with the development of trade co-operation. This report contains a general review of existing interational machinery for trade co-operation, together with more detailed analysis of some of the organizations dealing with the promotion of international trade coperation; it is being circulated to Governments.

4. International commodity problems

The period under review was marked by considerable United Nations activity in the field of international commodity problems. Besides continuing to maintain contact with the various inter-governmental groups concerned with particular commodities, with relevant specialized agencies and with the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the Secretary-General convened three international commodity conferences on three primary commodities and an inter-governmental meeting to explore the possibility of action in respect of a fourth.

The United Nations Conference on Olive Oil met in Geneva from 3 to 17 October 1955. The work of the Conference was based on the preparatory report made by a Working Party on Olive Oil established by the Committee on Commodity Problems of the Food and Agriculture Organization. The Conference concluded an agreement aiming at ensuring fair competition among countries producing and exporting olive oil and guaranteeing to consuming countries delivery of a commodity conforming to standard contract specifications. The agreement seeks to encourage the consumption of olive oil and to minimize the effects of fluctuation of supplies without obstructing long-term changes in demand and productivity. The agreement would be administered by an Olive Oil Council which would also examine the possibilities of establishing an international olive oil stabilization fund. The agreement will not enter into force until accepted by sufficient producing and importing countries. The experience in developing the international agreement on olive oil indicates that the United Nations machinery for inter-governmental consultation and action can be used just as effectively in dealing with problems arising in regard to commodities where international trade is limited as with problems arising in regard to commodities whose international trade is greater in value.

In September 1955, the Secretary-General was requested by the International Wheat Council to convene an international conference to consider the renewal or replacement of the International Wheat Agreement which expires on 31 July 1956. Acting on the advice of the Interim Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements (ICCICA), the Secretary-General convened the United Nations Wheat Conference, the first session of which was held from 26 October to 16 November 1955 and the second from 20 February to 25 April 1956. The Conference was attended by representatives of fifty-nine countries (eleven of whom were represented by observers) and provided an opportunity for delegates from wheat importing and exporting countries to review the operation of the current Agreement and to consider whether some other type of agreement would be more satisfactory. An International Wheat Agreement covering a period of three years and similar in structure to the existing Agreement was concluded. The Agreement will come into force on 1 August 1956 upon ratification by the required number of Governments. It will be administered by the International Wheat Council which, under the new Agreement, is also authorized to study any aspect of the world wheat situation and to sponsor exchanges of information and inter-governmental consultations relating thereto.

The terms of the International Sugar Agreement, which was concluded at the United Nations Sugar Conference in 1953 and entered into force on 1 January 1954, provided that the working of the Agreement was to be reviewed during the third year of its operation by the International Sugar Council. In the light of its experience of the operation of the current Agreement, the Sugar Council was of the view that any revised instrument, in order to be fully effective, should be concluded on a wider basis and requested the Secretary-General to convene an inter-governmental conference for this purpose. Accordingly, the Secretary-General, after consulting ICCICA, convened the United Nations Sugar Conference, 1956, which began its first session at Headquarters on 21 May 1956. At the time of writing, the Conference was reviewing the operation of the Agreement on the basis of the experience gained; consideration has been given to various amendments suggested and an exchange of views has taken place on quotas and prices.

Representatives of Governments interested in cocoa production, consumption and trade attended a meeting convened by the Secretary-General at Headquarters on 3 and 4 May 1956, on the advice of ICCICA and in consultation with the Director-General of FAO. These inter-governmental exploratory talks provided an opportunity for the representatives of all the important

producing and consuming regions to discuss certain procedural matters related to current problems in international trade in cocoa. In view of the sharp fluctuation in cocoa prices in recent years, it was agreed that further inter-governmental consideration of the problems of cocoa trade was urgently required and that FAO should be requested to give consideration to the early establishment on a broad basis of an inter-governmental group on cocoa.

The International Tin Agreement concluded at the United Nations Tin Conference has been signed by sufficient Governments to bring it into force and a meeting of representatives of the signatory Governments is scheduled for the end of June.

The Commission on International Commodity Trade, established during the preceding year as an advisory commission by the Economic and Social Council, held its second and third sessions during the year under review. The Commission met in Geneva from 28 November to 10 December 1955 and in New York from 7 to 18 May 1956, and is submitting a report to the Council at its twenty-second session.

The Commission has kept the current situation in international trade in primary commodities under review. The Statistical Office of the United Nations, at the request of the Commission, has prepared certain statistical series in order to facilitate such reviews. Detailed consideration has been given to the organization of the Commission's activities and its future programme of work. In particular, the Commission is developing certain pilot studies designed to provide basic information on the nature and extent of fluctuations in commodity prices and in the volume of trade in primary commodities.

The Commission, at its second session, recommended to the Secretary-General that a memorandum on "Recent Commodity Developments" should be issued each month in order to keep members informed of current developments. Ten monthly memoranda were issued during the period under review.

Two issues of the "Commodity Market Bulletin" also appeared, containing articles and notes on commodity problems.

The Interim Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements held two sessions during the period under review—one in Geneva, in December 1955, and the other at Headquarters, in April 1956. At those meetings it dealt with a number of matters in connexion with inter-governmental consultation and action on international commodity problems. In its report, entitled "1956 Review of International Commodity Problems", the Committee presents a summary account of inter-governmental consultation and action with respect to individual commodities that had taken place during 1955 and the early part of 1956 in the light of the situation in these commodities during the period. This report will be before the Economic and Social Council at its forthcoming twenty-second session.

5. Fiscal and financial problems

(*a*) Budgetary problems

During the year under review, work in the budget field has been primarily directed towards problems related to the reclassification of budget accounts to improve their usefulness for fiscal policy making. A Workshop on Problems of Budget Reclassification in the ECAFE region was held in Bangkok from 30 August to 10 September 1955 with the participation of specialists from seventeen Governments. A revised draft of the *Manual for the Classification of Government Accounts* prepared by the Secretary-General was used as a basis for discussion. A minimum programme for the reclassification of government transactions by economic character and purpose was presented in the report of the Workshop. It was proposed that another meeting of the Workshop should be held after two years to review the experience of the countries concerned in carrying out the programme, since several Governments in this area were engaged in the reclassification of their budget accounts.

A technical paper on "Economic concepts of budget deficits" was published in the May 1956 issue of the *Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Far East*. It assesses the limitations and relative usefulness of different measures of budget deficits and surpluses from the standpoint of fiscal programming.

A comparative study on presentation methods used by selected countries for financial reporting of government operations was started in 1955. Data on government transactions covering a number of years and classified according to such methods will be included and analyzed from the viewpoint of international comparability. This study is also to serve as a working document for the Budget Workshop to be held in the ECAFE region in 1957.

As in previous years, the United Nations *Statistical Yearbook* for 1955 contained information on public debt and on major components of government expenditures and receipts. Co-operation has continued with the International Monetary Fund in the preparation and publication of global data on cash operations of Governments.

(*b*) Tax problems

Considerable attention has been given to the use of tax measures in stimulating an increased flow of private capital to under-developed areas. Early in 1956, the Secretary-General issued a memorandum on taxation in capital-exporting and capital-importing countries of foreign private investment for the twenty-second session of the Economic and Social Council. It is being supplemented by a series of country studies.

The promotion of international trade and investment through the prevention of double taxation is the object of a growing network of bilateral agreements which are being published in the series *International Tax Agreements*. Volume VI in the series, which appeared in the spring of 1956, contains the texts of new agreements concluded up to June 1955. Full information on the status of all tax agreements as of 1 June 1955 will be provided in the *World Guide to International Tax Agreements*, which is scheduled for publication as volume VII of the series, later in 1956.

A special study on fiscal incentives to private capital formation in under-developed countries has been started, at the request of the Economic Commission for Latin America.

Assistance also was given to the Secretariat of UNESCO through the preparation of a note on inter-

ional double taxation of copyright royalties of hors and artists.

(c) Financial problems

The mobilization of private capital for economic velopment and its channelling to productive investnt has been a matter of growing interest to the ited Nations. A programme of studies on the role financial policies and institutions in economic develment has now begun. The proposed work programme l be particularly concerned with those institutional d policy aspects which have assumed increasing imrtance in connexion with technical assistance activis. A basic study on the development of securities arkets and the effective use of financial institutions erating through such markets has also been started.

Publication of a "World Tax Series", consisting of mprehensive country reports on national tax systems d administration, will be initiated in the fall of 1956 der a co-operative arrangement with the Harvard w School International Programme in Taxation.

(d) Fiscal aspects of economic development

In response to a request of the Committee on Ecomic Co-operation in Central America, a study of tional tax structures and government expenditure tterns in that area was undertaken with a view to dicating how they can be more effectively used to romote economic development. This study will be bmitted to the fourth meeting of the Committee, to held in January 1957.

A fiscal study of selected countries of the Middle ast is under way as part of a series of economic studies the region. The object of the study is to evaluate the le of the government sector in the economies of the arious countries.

During the period under review, eleven Governents received technical assistance through expert misions in fiscal and financial matters. Fiscal policy reorm, improvement in tax and budget administration nd aid in the setting up of development financing nstitutions have been foremost among the objects of uch expert assistance.

Requests for current information have been received rom Governments, specialized agencies and nonovernmental organizations. In a number of cases, Govrnments have consulted the Secretary-General on pecific technical problems of a fiscal or financial nature. n addition, seventy-seven fellowships and scholarships vere granted under the 1955 training programme to pplicants proposed by Governments in these fields. A number of these fellowships were used in order to ontinue the implementation of long-range country prorammes designed to provide highly trained teams of fficials for government fiscal and financial services.

6. International co-operation on cartography

Increasing attention is being given by Governments o the development of their cartographic work for ecoomic development. Nevertheless, much remains to be done in the provision of adequate maps of all kinds in the under-developed regions.

The Secretary-General submitted to the twenty-first session of the Economic and Social Council a report on "International Co-operation on Cartography", dealing with the work achieved in implementing Council resolutions relating to the following subjects: (1) United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East; (2) adoption of a standard method of writing geographical names on maps; and (3) specifications for the International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale.

The Council requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to convene in 1958, in Tokyo, a second United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East, including the preparation of a provisional agenda. The Government of Japan had offered to act as host to the Conference.

In implementation of a further decision of the Council taken at its twenty-first session regarding the adoption of a standard method of writing geographical names, preliminary consultations are being held with national institutions having made over a long period of time substantive contributions with regard to this question, for the purpose of preparing the general framework of a programme designed to achieve maximum international uniformity in the writing of geographical names.

The first annual progress report on the status of publication of the International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale since the functions of the Central Bureau were transferred to the United Nations in 1953 appears in volume IV of the United Nations cartographic bulletin *World Cartography*. A second annual progress report covering the year 1955 is under preparation and will appear in volume V of the bulletin. The information received from publishing agencies during the last two years indicates that a number of new sheets and new editions have been issued by various countries in recent years. Many of these are provisional editions, and further efforts are needed to complete the International Map. The Council, after examining the matter, felt that if a greater degree of flexibility in the specifications governing the preparation of the Map could be allowed, the task of those cartographic agencies which hitherto have not been able to meet the existing requirements would be facilitated.

7. Transport and communications

The United Nations continues to serve as the central point of liaison and co-ordination with the specialized agencies and other inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with transport and communications. The Organization establishes international conventions and agreements in this field as and when needed, and makes recommendations to Governments and follows the work of implementation. Technical assistance is also provided, in particular, in planning projects, in selecting and briefing experts and in reviewing reports and applications for fellowships. The work in transport and communications is being increasingly devoted to technical assistance matters. The activities of the regional economic commissions (whose work is described in section 9 below) and of other regional transport bodies are followed, as are developments in regions where such bodies do not exist.

The following is a brief account of the main developments during the past year.

(a) International co-operation in transport and communications

The situation with respect to the ratification of the Convention on the Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, concluded at the United Nations Maritime Conference held in Geneva in 1948, has changed since the last report in that, firstly, one additional ratification (by Switzerland) was received in July 1955 and, secondly, the Greek Government notified the Secretary-General in March 1956 that it was withdrawing its ratification. The required number of ratifications or accessions having not yet been reached, the organization is not yet functioning. Consequently, the United Nations continues to deal directly with some urgent maritime problems.

As requested by the International Conference on Pollution of the Sea by Oil, held in London in 1954, and as decided by the Economic and Social Council at its eighteenth session, the United Nations Secretariat has undertaken the collection and dissemination of technical information about oil pollution. The data received from Governments have been analyzed and are being circulated in compliance with the request.

With respect to road transport problems, the Convention on Road Traffic concluded at the United Nations Conference on Road and Motor Transport held in Geneva in 1949, which entered into force in March 1952, has now been ratified by a further five States, bringing the total to twenty-three. The validity of the provision under article 24, paragraph 6, of the Convention relating to the admission in international traffic of drivers holding documents under the provisions of the 1926 International Convention relative to Motor Traffic or of the 1943 Convention on the Regulation of Inter-American Automotive Traffic, will expire in March 1957. This matter was brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council, suggesting that it would be desirable if States Parties to the 1949 Convention were to extend the validity of the clause for an additional period of three years. The Council examined this proposal at its twenty-first session and adopted a resolution recommending to Governments of States Parties to the Convention to continue to apply the clause until March 1960; the Council, at the same time, urged Governments which are eligible and which have not yet done so to ratify the Convention as soon as possible.

Action on other matters in the field of international road transport, in particular on road signs and signals and on the licensing of motor vehicle drivers, continues along the lines indicated in last year's report.

As to the study of transport of dangerous goods, preparations have been made for the next meeting of the Committee of Experts which is to convene later this year. The recommendations prepared by the Committee at its first meeting concerning the classification, listing and labelling of dangerous goods and the shipping papers for such goods were submitted to Governments and interested international organizations for their comments, and a considerable number of replies have been received. The Committee is to examine these comments and to establish final recommendations which the Secretary-General is invited to circulate to Governments and interested organizations as soon as they are completed. The Committee is also requested to recommend a procedure for keeping the list of dangerous goods up to date, and to study further the problem of packaging on the basis of studies recommended by the experts in their report. Preliminary work on these two aspects is proceeding in the Secretariat, in collaboration with interested authorities and organizations. A report on the whole matter will be presented to the Transport and Communications Commission at its next session.

(b) Facilitation of international movement of persons and goods

Problems concerning facilitation of international travel and simplification of passports and frontier formalities continue to be dealt with by the United Nations. The Secretary-General will report to the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-third session on the measures taken on the development of international travel. The results of the inquiry addressed to Member States with regard to the progress made in implementing the recommendation of the 1947 Meeting of Experts on Passports and Frontier Formalities mentioned last year, will be reported to the Transport and Communications Commission at its eighth session.

The three instruments concluded at the United Nations Conference on Customs Formalities for the Temporary Importation of Road Motor Vehicles and for Tourism, held at United Nations Headquarters during May and June 1954, have now been ratified as follows: eight States have ratified the Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles; ten States have ratified the Convention concerning Customs Facilities for Touring; and six the Additional Protocol to the Convention concerning Customs Facilities for Touring, relating to the Importation of Tourist Publicity Documents and Material. The Conventions will come into force when ratified or acceded to by fifteen States. The Additional Protocol will come into force on 28 June 1956, three months after the deposit of the fifth ratification.

8. Statistical services of the United Nations

(a) Improvement of national statistics

One of the most striking aspects in the progress of work in statistics has continued to be the growth in the amount of available statistics, both in national and international publications. It is also encouraging to note the increasing number of methodological studies by national and international offices which are being issued with a view to improving the quality of statistics and which will eventually lead to vastly improved data for use in programmes of economic and social development.

There are a number of methods by which the United Nations assists countries in the improvement of their statistics, ranging from expert advice on statistical programmes and organization to the compilation of technical manuals and handbooks. During the period under review direct advice and assistance, in collaboration with the Technical Assistance Administration, has been provided by thirty-six statisticians for a period of 202 man-months to twenty-one countries. This assistance covered the fields of population, vital statistics, national income, general economic statistics, industry, distribution and transport, customs nomenclature, machine tabulation, mathematical statistics, and sampling and statistical organization. Forty-three fellowships have been granted to statisticians of twenty-two countries

rmitting them to study abroad or to attend training ntres. Active collaboration has continued with the atistical Training Centre sponsored by the University the Philippines, which has been attended by 162 idents and 131 in-service trainees (bringing the total rticipation to 259 for the academic courses and to 3 for the in-service training programme).

As was originally intended when that Centre was tablished, the United Nations has now withdrawn om the Inter-American Centre of Biostatistics which as established in Santiago, Chile, in 1952 by agreement nong the Government of Chile, the World Health rganization and the United Nations. The functions of o-ordination, hitherto performed by an international aff headed by a member of the Secretariat of the nited Nations, were handed over to the Chilean na- onal agencies directly concerned. United Nations sup- ort of the Centre will be continued through the award- ng of fellowships, and it is anticipated that lectures or nsultants will be furnished as required.

The third plenary session of the Conference of uropean Statisticians which took place in September 955 considered (1) reports of working groups on urrent movements in wholesale and retail trade, sta- istics of fixed capital formation, statistics of savings, nput-output tables, quarterly estimates of national in- ome, statistics of stocks and censuses of population; 2) reports made by specialized agencies and other nternational bodies on items of interest to the members f the Conference, namely, methods of collecting data n prices received by farmers and their use in derived tatistical series, international comparisons of wages, amily budget inquiries and methodological aspects of work being done on international comparisons of family udgets and labour costs; and (3) reports on basic ndustrial statistics and international statistics on steel, oal, electric power, housing and building, transport, griculture and timber. The plenary sessions are of ourse less concerned with technical details, which are dealt with by *ad hoc* working groups, than with the broad lines of the work.

Working groups of the Conference of European Statisticians discussed the following subjects during the period under review: statistics of wholesale and retail trade; the classification of persons by status (i.e, employer, employee, etc.) particularly in connexion with population censuses; statistics of capital formation, input-output, savings and capital consumption and indicators of short-term economic changes.

A working group of the Conference also discussed and commented upon draft recommendations for use in connexion with the 1960 World Population Census programme. These recommendations were subsequently discussed and commented upon at a Statistical Seminar for Arab States (sponsored by the United Nations and the Government of Egypt) which was held in Cairo during November 1955 and was attended by fifty participants from nine countries. In March 1956, the Fourth Regional Conference of Statisticians of Asia and the Far East met in Bangkok and also commented upon the draft census recommendations. The comments and modifications suggested by these groups to meet the needs of their respective regions, together with those previously received from a sub-committee of the Inter-American Statistical Institute's Committee on the Improvement of National Statistics, were referred to the Statistical Commission of the United Nations which recommended that they should be taken into account, as far as possible, in further work on this subject. Arrangements for further regional consultation in Latin America on this subject have been established by the Committee on the Improvement of National Statistics.

The advantages of regional consultations are obvious, providing as they do the possibility of more rapid development of regionally applicable standards, the more certain implementation of international statistical standards already in effect, the opportunity to exchange practical information on new methods and on the planning and conduct of statistical operations, and the setting up of a mechanism to co-ordinate further statistical activities within a region. With these objects in mind the Fourth Regional Conference of Statisticians of Asia and the Far East proposed to establish a permanent Conference of Asian Statisticians to perform, for Asia and the Far East, functions similar to those of the Conference of European Statisticians. The Statistical Commission endorsed this proposal, expressing the view that such regional working groups have "proved a very valuable instrument for achieving general standards, of developing within the framework of such standards the specific adjustments and elaborations corresponding to the special needs of different regions, and of promoting the mutual interchange of statistical experience of the countries concerned".

A further step towards achieving improvements in national statistics is a resolution by the Statistical Commission, adopted at its ninth session, to give effect to a recommendation made by the Economic and Social Council in 1948 for "the creation of a field service to provide technicians to visit and advise countries or groups of neighbouring countries which request assistance in the field of statistics". The field officers would help in formulating requests for the kind of assistance best suited to the needs of the countries, provide short-term assistance in the most expeditious way, consult with Governments on the preparatory arrangements necessary to ensure the success of advisory services provided by experts and assist in the establishment and conduct of education and training activities.

(*b*) Establishment of statistical standards

The formulation and development of international statistical standards, concepts, definitions and classifications is one of the foremost responsibilities of the Statistical Office of the United Nations. A further phase of this work is the establishment of uniform methods for the compilation and presentation of statistics for international purposes, with a view to achieving comparable data.

Substantial progress has been made in the development of basic concepts and definitions of statistics of wholesale, retail and service trades. An expert group of statisticians was convened by the Secretary-General in October 1955 and its report, summarizing its deliberations and proposals with respect to international recommendations concerning coverage, items of data, definitions and tabulations, was circulated to Governments for comment and was discussed by the Working Group on Distribution Statistics of the Conference of European Statisticians in January 1956. At its ninth session, the Statistical Commission approved the programme for the collection of statistics of distribution as a technical guide for the Governments of Member States undertaking work in this field.

A total of sixty-eight countries and territories (an increase of ten countries since June 1955) are currently compiling their statistics of external trade according to the United Nations *Standard International Trade Classification.*

The use, for statistical valuation, of the transaction value, recommended by the Statistical Commission, has been widely accepted. Assistance has been given to countries in dealing with the practical valuation difficulties encountered where multiple rate systems are in force. At its ninth session the Commission, taking account of these difficulties, passed a supplementary resolution expanding and clarifying the methods that might be used.

A report dealing with the attribution of imports by country of provenance and of the statistical treatment of re-exports and goods in transit was considered by the Commission, which passed a resolution requesting that further study of the possibilities of improving the international comparability of trade-by-country statistics should continue. A standard definition of customs area has been approved for application by countries where possible.

To assist countries in the use of the United Nations *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities,* numerical and alphabetical indexes containing some 10,000 entries have been prepared. In addition, a handbook entitled *World Weights and Measures* has been issued. This is designed primarily for the use of statisticians working in the field of international economics; it contains detailed data on weights and measures used in each country of the world, with equivalents in national, British and metric units.

A detailed review has been undertaken of the statistics gathered by countries from enterprises (as distinguished from establishments or plants) and the uses made of these data, with a view to the eventual development of guiding principles for the items of data to be sought and how they might be arrayed for various purposes, such as statements for the industrial, distributive, financial and other sectors of the economy. The survey has shown that increasing work in this field is being undertaken because of the multiple ways in which the data can be utilized in the analysis of business conditions and operations and in the compilation of national economic accounts.

A further analysis of recent national practices and experiences with respect to basic industrial statistics arising out of establishment reports is to be undertaken and countries will be consulted, through regional meetings and other means, with regard to eventual revision of the present international recommendations in the light of experience, and with regard to plans for a world-wide industrial census programme.

A survey of the development of work in different countries on index numbers of wholesale prices was prepared. The different systems and proposals were described and their character and uses analysed. The results of the survey emphasized the fact that it was unlikely that any single scheme of index numbers could be recommended for use internationally. However, when the Commission gave consideration to this subject, there was general agreement that sector index numbers of wholesale prices were most useful for economic analysis. Further examination of the alternative methods for the compilation of these indexes will be undertaken.

Progress has been made with respect to various aspects of statistics of capital formation. A study of methods of estimating capital formation has disclosed that the existing international standard concepts and definitions of capital formation are generally suitable as a framework for the compilation and presentation of the statistics. Further study is to be made of the experiences of countries in the application of the standards to determine whether revisions should be contemplated. In addition, a programme will be prepared for the collection and presentation of statistics of capital formation and of capital consumption, giving special attention to the needs of the under-developed countries.

In the field of national accounts, progress has been achieved in the implementation by countries of the standards proposed in the report entitled *A System of National Accounts and Supporting Tables.* Specific proposals for some clarifications and adjustments of the text of the above-mentioned study are to be prepared and circulated to Governments for comment, and a study is to be made of the relationship of the United Nations system to the system of accounts employed in countries with planned economies.

A study of methods used in the estimation of national product and expenditure in constant prices has been undertaken. In view of the complex questions of concept and method connected with these statistics, further detailed research will be undertaken and a preliminary technical report on price and quantity indexes in national accounting will be circulated for comment. Later, a more conclusive report will be prepared in the light of the comments received.

During the past year, progress has been achieved in many fields of demographic and social statistics. The 1960 Population Census Programme has been established and a number of activities designed to support the programme have been initiated. Draft recommendations of basic census items and their definitions were discussed and commented upon by various regional bodies as well as by the Statistical Commission at its ninth session. A series of methodological studies, destined for incorporation into handbook and guides for use in the 1960 censuses, has been largely completed. These studies, based on materials furnished by some fifty countries which took censuses in the 1945-1954 decade, deal with the concepts and definitions for each census item or topic. The Statistical Commission has recommended that a special programme should be undertaken of technical assistance, training and expert advice for the preparation and conduct of national population censuses.

At the request of the Statistical Commission, countries are undertaking the further study of procedures in vital statistics to take account of the United Nations *Principles for a Vital Statistics System* and the *Handbook of Vital Statistics Methods.* The study of housing census definitions and concepts is continuing with a view to the preparation of draft recommendations for a programme of housing censuses. The Commission has emphasised that work in social statistics should be intensified with a view to more rapid advancement in methodology and in the national and international collection of data essential for national development.

At its eighth session, the Statistical Commission had found itself in general agreement with the major conclusions contained in the *Report on International Definition and Measurement of Standards and Levels of*

iving. Comments on the report were subsequently eceived from Governments and specialized agencies, nd it was considered by the Social Commission and he Economic and Social Council. At its ninth session, he Statistical Commission studied the results of these eliberations and discussed conceptual and methodo- gical problems involved in measuring levels of living y the component and indicator approach. There was eneral agreement that, even though the component pproach was considered a useful basis for future iction, much work had to be done before indicators ould be selected to measure all components in the arious countries. The Commission made a number of pecific suggestions with respect to methodology. At he Commission's request, studies on concepts, defini- ions and standards for the measurement of levels or onditions of living are to be pursued and intensified o as to facilitate the exchange of information and the romotion of comparability. Further, a review of the ist of indicators is to be undertaken (after the com- letion of the second *Report on the World Social Situa- tion*) to re-evaluate it as to its suitability for interna- ional comparisons.

(*c*) Collection and publication of statistics

The Statistical Office has continued the regular col- lection and publication of data in the fields of external trade, production and prices, national income, popula- tion and vital statistics, as well as in such other special fields as are required. In addition, the Office has con- tinued and expanded its programme of summarizing national data to obtain world and regional totals of economic and social interest, as well as index numbers designed to elucidate the meaning of the movements of these totals from year to year.

In the field of production, the Statistical Office has estimated world and regional production of a list of important goods and, to show the trends of production as a whole, it compiles quarterly indexes of production in manufacturing and in mining analysed regionally. Totals of the production and consumption of energy and aggregates of freight transported by railways and by ocean shipping are also compiled.

In the field of external trade, the total values of world exports and of world imports are estimated each quarter and the flow of trade between regions is shown semi-annually in matrix form. The changes in the values of exports from quarter to quarter are analysed into changes in volume and changes in average price by means of indexes of quantum and unit value. The dif- ferent effects on the changes of average price of move- ments in the average price of primary commodities and in the average price of manufactured goods can be studied through indexes compiled, for that purpose, by the Statistical Office.

In the field of national income, detailed data are pub- lished for industrial origin of net domestic product, dis- tribution of national income and expenditure on gross domestic product. As one of the means of improving the international comparability of the estimates of na- tional income and related aggregates, the principal departures from the United Nations concepts in this field are described in the country notes of the publica- tions of the Statistical Office.

World, regional and continental population aggregates have been compiled for each year beginning 1946. These aggregates are formed from official population figures, supplemented where necessary by estimated prepared in the Population Branch of the Bureau of Social Affairs; they are systematically revised as new data become available. Retrospective series of world and regional totals for the years 1920, 1930 and 1940 have also been compiled. These, together with the available annual estimates, provide a basis for computing annual per cent rates of population change which, in turn, provide a means of estimating data for the intervening years.

Because vital statistics are non-existent for many parts of the world and because they are grossly inac- curate for other areas, it has not yet been possible to compile world aggregates for these series. However, continental estimates based on limited number of re- porting units have been compiled for purposes of experiment and study.

National data are reproduced and the summary fig- ures just described are published in the following docu- ments: the *Statistical Yearbook, 1955,* which contains the more important economic and social series; the *Demographic Yearbook,* which regularly includes the principal demographic series, as well as more detailed statistics on a subject rotation basis (the special topic of the 1955 issue is censuses of population); and the *Yearbook of International Trade Statistics, 1954,* which contains detailed statistics for 100 countries covering about 98 per cent of world trade.

These three basic reference books are supplemented by the following additional periodical publications: the *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics,* which contains detailed current statistical series on more than sixty subjects for 130 countries and territories; the *Supplement to the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics,* which contains detailed definitions and explanatory notes regarding the scope, coverage and methods of compilation of the series appearing in the *Bulletin; Commodity Trade Statistics* (quarterly), which provides statistics on imports and exports classified according to the 150 groups of the *Standard International Trade Classification* and sum- maries in terms of the ten sections of the SITC; *Direction of International Trade* (monthly issues with an annual summary; published jointly by the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Develop- ment), which contains statistics of total exports and imports by direction for about one hundred countries; *Population and Vital Statistics* (quarterly), which provides most recently available birth, death and infant mortality rates, population census results, current esti- mates of population for more than 220 countries and territories as well as world and continental popula- tion aggregates; *Statistics of National Income and Expenditure* (semi-annual), which provides the latest data on national income and product; and *Statistical Notes,* which describes current events in international statistics.

9. Regional economic activities

Regional economic co-operation has increased through the regional commissions. With the accession of nine new member countries on their admission to member- ship in the United Nations, and with the relaxation of political tension, the Economic Commission for Europe has been able to develop and intensify its

activities on an all-European basis. It is paying increasing attention to energy problems and is undertaking a study of possible international action in regard to the gas industry. Through its subsidiary bodies, the Commission is planning to promote increased contacts between countries of Eastern and Western Europe.

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East has carried forward its work in regard to economic planning and programming through a working party established for this purpose. It has added a number of new projects to its work programme in the fields of agriculture, flood control and water resources development, industry and trade, and inland transport.

All three regional commissions have continued to co-operate in various aspects of the United Nations Programme of Technical Assistance. In the case of the Economic Commission for Latin America, this co-operation was reflected in the decentralization by the Technical Assistance Administration to Santiago, Chile, of part of its functions, on an experimental basis. ECLA has continued to pay special attention to questions of economic development and programming, including the preparation of country studies, at the request of individual member countries. Significant progress has been made in its work relating to the economic integration of the Central American republics.

Regional social affairs divisions have recently been established in the secretariats of both ECAFE and ECLA.

The Economic and Social Council has continued to exercise its function of ensuring co-ordination and integration of global and regional activities.

(*a*) Economic Commission for Europe

The Economic Commission for Europe, at its session held in April 1956, surveyed the work of its committees and of its secretariat over the past year. It adopted resolutions concerning energy problems in Europe; gas problems; the consideration within the ECE of an all-European Agreement on Economic Co-operation; the development of contacts between countries of eastern and western Europe; regional co-operation in the economic aspects of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy; inter-regional trade consultations; and the economic development of southern Europe. Furthermore, the Commission decided, with regard to the Industry and Materials Committee, to entrust two rapporteurs from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics respectively, to prepare an over-all report on the economic aspects of automation. A decision was also taken concerning the convening of an Expert Consultation on the pollution of waters in Europe. The question of an all-European Agreement on Economic Co-operation and that of the regional co-operation in the economic aspects of nuclear energy are to be placed on the agenda of the Commission's twelfth session.

The Commission considered and adopted the draft programme of work of its committees and its secretariat for 1956-1957. The annual report of ECE, describing the full range of its activities during the period, was submitted to the Economic and Social Council for consideration at its twenty-second session.

Close co-operation between the secretariat and the specialized agencies, as well as with a number of non-governmental organizations, has continued. The secretariat has also maintained informal contacts, at the technical level, with the staff of the Organization for European Economic Co-operation and with the secretariat of the Council of Europe, as well as with the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Conference of Ministers of Transport. Similar relations were established with the secretariats of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and the Danube Commission in Budapest.

The Commission did not adopt a draft resolution, submitted by Czechoslovakia, proposing that representatives of the German Democratic Republic should be invited to take part in the work of its eleventh session as observers. The existing procedure concerning the participation of eastern Germany in the work of the Commission's subsidiary organs remained unchanged.

Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 594 (XX) the Federal Republic of Germany became a member of the Commission on 21 February 1956. Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Portugal, Romania and Spain became members of ECE consequent upon their admission to membership in the United Nations under the terms of General Assembly resolution 995 (X).

(i) *Agriculture*

The Committee on Agricultural Problems pursued its work on the market outlook and the longer term import and export possibilities with respect to a number of important agricultural commodities. It also took certain decisions intended to promote the exchange of technical information and experience including the organization of visits of specialists.

The Committee's subsidiary bodies continued to be concerned with the elaboration of standard conditions of sale for cereals and citrus fruits, the standardization and quality control of some perishable foodstuffs and a series of problems associated with the mechanization of agriculture.

The Committee and the Working Parties arranged a number of visits to promote the exchange of relevant experience and information between the participating countries.

(ii) *Coal*

The Coal Committee devoted its attention to the following principal subjects: consumption of solid fuels by consuming sectors, coal in relation to other forms of energy, long-term trading arrangements and standardization of general conditions of sale.

The Coal Trade Sub-Committee has carried out its regular quarterly reviews of the market situation in solid fuel with a view to adjustment where necessary in the discrepancies between import requirements and quantities available for export. The main concern of the Utilization Working Party has been the study of rational uses of European coal availabilities such as the problem of widening the range of coal to be used for carbonization purposes. An important result of the activities of the Classification Working Party has been the completion of an international system on the classification of hard coal by type, which has been successfully tested over a period of two years and is now recommended for adoption by Governments.

(iii) *Steel*

The Steel Committee reviewed short term trends d developments in the European steel market in 1954 d 1955 including longer term aspects of the evolu- n of the demand for steel. It also discussed recent vances in steel technology and market developments. he Committee agreed to recommend the adoption of definition of iron and steel production capacity applic- le to the whole of Europe. An *ad hoc* Working Party et to consider the possibility of standardizing general nditions of sale for steel products and ores of iron, rome and manganese. Governments are to give their ews as to whether it would be useful to embark upon is work.

During 1954 and 1955 there have been reciprocal sits to iron and steel plants in each others' countries the part of experts from Belgium, France, the United ingdom and the USSR and Swedish experts have sited iron and steel plants in the USSR. The Com- ittee recommended that such visits should be continued 1956.

(iv) *Electric power*

During the period under review the Electric Power ommittee directed its primary attention to such ques- ons as the utilization of Europe's electric power re- urces, rural electrification, methods employed for e determination of electric power consumption fore- sts, the organization of electric power services and e determination of seasonal gross hydro-electric po- ntial, and the analysis of the main factors governing e electric power situation in Europe. Legal and sta- stical problems were also studied. The Committee ressed that the application of nuclear energy for the eneration of electric power confronted European coun- ies with fundamental economic problems which emanded careful study.

The Working Party on Rural Electrification ap- roved the first ten reports among the thirty-three ubjects selected for study in that field. Visits of spe- ialists to the USSR and Austria were organized under e auspices of this subsidiary body.

The Yougelexport scheme has entered its operational hase and negotiations are under way concerning bi- teral contracts, the establishment of bodies entrusted ith the task of constructing works as well as the uestion of financing.

(v) *Engineering and industrial materials*

The *ad hoc* Working Party on Contract Practices in Engineering decided to make certain amendments to he General Conditions for the Supply of Plant and Machinery for Export, published in March 1953. A new dition of the General Conditions will be published *pari assu* with the General Conditions of 1953. Progress has been made on the drafting of erection clauses.

The first session of the *ad hoc* Working Party on Agricultural Machinery agreed on its programme of work which comprises, in particular, such questions as he exchange of technical information on agricultural machinery mainly through co-operation between the ational research institutes concerned; analysis of com- mercial, economic or administrative difficulties which mpede trade in agricultural machinery and examination f problems of production and utilization of certain types of agricultural machinery. At later sessions, considera- tion is to be given to the possibility of action with regard to the classification of agricultural machinery by type, its standardization and the prevention of accidents in handling such machinery.

In addition to adopting a decision concerning the preparation of a report on automation referred to above, ECE at its eleventh session also decided that Govern- ments should submit detailed proposals concerning other aspects of possible future activities under the auspices of the Industry and Materials Committee.

(vi) *Housing*

The Committee and its working parties met to con- sider the question of the development of housing policy and problems concerned with housing in the less indus- trialized countries as well as housing and building sta- tistics. A series of technical studies intended to assist in reducing the cost of building through greater industrial- ization in the building industry were carried out. Study trips were organized to Poland, Belgium and the Netherlands.

(vii) *Timber*

At its autumn session in 1955, the Timber Committee undertook its customary review of the sawn softwood, pit props and pulpwood markets in Europe. Medium and long-term trade prospects are to be given considera- tion at future meetings. The Committee also approved the approach adopted by the secretariat towards the study on the substitution of timber by other materials. A joint Food and Agriculture Organization/ECE Party on Forest and Forest Products Statistics met for the first time and agreed on the outline of a minimum long- term programme in the field of forest and forest prod- ucts statistics. The joint FAO/ECE Committee on For- est Working Techniques and the Training of Forest Workers met for the first time. It reviewed work done by study groups and individual experts and agreed on future activities. The Working Party on General Con- ditions of Sale for Timber held its first session and drafted a series of standard clauses.

The Committee expressed interest in the forthcoming world conference on the technical aspects of fibreboard and chipboard manufacture and use, to be convened by FAO early in 1957.

A number of visits and study tours were undertaken in connexion with the work of the joint FAO/ECE Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers.

(viii) *Transport*

The Inland Transport Committee has continued its work on the drafting of several conventions in the field of inland water transport.

Among the subjects which claimed the Committee's attention in inland transport by road were the study of measures to prevent road traffic accidents and problems of vehicle construction affecting road safety. Several annexes to the General Agreement of March 1954 on Economic Regulations for International Road Trans- port and the Set of Rules are being prepared.

Various aspects of the problem of transport costs in railway transport have been investigated by the Com- mittee's appropriate subsidiary bodies. A number of

technical problems affecting rail transport equipment are to be examined by a group of experts. Five conventions were signed on 18 and 19 May 1956 in Geneva. They concern: (1) the temporary duty-free importation for private use of aircraft and boats; (2) the temporary duty-free importation of commercial vehicles; (3) containers; (4) taxation of road vehicles for private use in international traffic; and (5) the contract for international carriage of goods by road. A convention on the transport of goods by road is being prepared. The Committee also devoted attention to problems connected with the simplification of customs formalities in Europe. The protocols on the standardization of wooden packaging for fruit and vegetables have been put into operation in a number of countries.

The Committee has continued its work on a draft agreement on the transport of dangerous goods by road and a parallel convention on the transport of such goods by inland waterways.

(ix) *Trade*

At its fourth session, the Committee on the Development of Trade, after a discussion of developments in intra-European, especially East-West trade, considered the question of the conclusion of new agreements, the possibilities of removing restrictions on exports and imports and a number of technical questions bearing upon trading techniques. Lists were submitted of commodities in respect of which a number of countries would be prepared to initiate long-term agreements or contracts. The Committee adopted a decision intended to encourage Governments to insert in their bilateral trade agreements clauses facilitating greater multilateralization of payments. A further decision envisaged the establishment of a voluntary multilateral compensation system. A draft of a joint declaration of central banks on multilateral compensation has been prepared by financial experts and sent to Governments for their observations.

The Committee's subsidiary bodies studied questions of arbitration, especially those problems which have given rise to practical difficulties, and trade fairs. Several practical trading problems were examined both multilaterally and in bilateral conversations in the course of a Consultation of Experts on East-West trade which was held in conjunction with the fourth session of the Committee.

In response to an inquiry, the majority of countries participating in the work of the Commission expressed interest in attending inter-regional trade consultations which might be held with the countries participating in the work of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and the Economic Commission for Latin America.

(x) *Other work*

The secretariat worked closely with the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration on specific projects and has continued to furnish advice on technical assistance projects, recruitment of experts and the placement of Technical Assistance fellows. An arrangement was made with TAA by which fellowships were granted to suitably qualified economists in certain European countries which provide for practical in-service training in some of the divisions of ECE secretariat.

The Conference of European Statisticians considered reports of its working groups on current movements in wholesale and retail trade, statistics of capital formation, input-output tables and savings, and populations censuses. It also heard reports by specialized agencies and other international organizations on work done *inter alia,* in the field of agricultural statistics, wages comparison and family budget inquiries. The Conference made a number of specific suggestions concerning statistical activities carried out by ECE's committees.

During the period under review the Expert Group on the Economic Development of Southern Europe completed its report which contains, *inter alia,* a detailed description and comparison of the development problems and prospects of the countries concerned.

Two consultations with experts on gas problems were convened by the Executive Secretary.

Co-operation with the other regional commissions remained close and systematic covering most fields within the Commission's purview.

The secretariat has continued the publication of periodic surveys and reviews including the *Quarterly Economic Bulletin for Europe,* the *Annual Economic Survey of Europe* and a series of statistical bulletins covering fields of coal, housing, steel, timber and transport.

(*b*) Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, at its twelfth session held at Bangalore, India, in February 1956, reviewed the work of its subsidiary bodies and of its secretariat and approved a programme of work for 1956 and 1957. The Commission again emphasized the concentration of its efforts on the whole range of problems related to economic development and planning, and recognized that its work had been facilitated by the increase in its membership and in the number of its subsidiary bodies, as well as by the increasing part played by the secretariat in rendering advisory services and in co-operating with the Technical Assistance Administration of the United Nations in technical assistance activities in the region.

Close co-operation with specialized agencies and with a number of non-governmental organizations has continued.

(i) *Economic development and planning*

A Working Party on Economic Development and Planning was convened in November 1955 and its report, together with the technical papers prepared by the Secretariat, was published as the November 1955 issue of the *Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Far East.* In accordance with a resolution adopted by ECAFE at its twelfth session, the second meeting of the Working Party, to be held in September 1956, will deal with development policies and means of implementation of over-all plans as well as plans in separate sectors of economies of Asian countries.

(ii) *Economic Survey*

The *Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East 1955,* consisted of two parts: part I, an analysis of regional problems, and part II, chapters on current economic developments in individual countries of the re-

n. The *Survey* pointed out that, while the year 1955 s on the whole favourable for the ECAFE countries, eral countries continued to face difficulties, particu- ly in their export trade and foreign exchange. The re of the ECAFE region in world trade was declin- because its trade was expanding at a lower rate than t of the rest of the world. A major feature of the *rvey* was an analysis of post-war economic progress, vering a period of nearly ten years, which pointed to conclusion that while a broad evaluation of all the evant factors showed that the progress which had n made in the region was greater than any purely antitative or statistical measurements would indicate, *r capita* production in the region was still generally favourable in relation both to pre-war conditions in sia and to present trends in the West.

(iii) *Industry and trade*

dustry

The third session of the Inter-Secretariat Working rty on Housing and Building Materials, which was tended by members of the secretariats of ECAFE, the ternational Labour Organisation, the Food and Agri- lture Organization and the World Health Organiza- n, as well as experts from some countries of the gion, was held at Bandung in June 1955 simultane- sly with an exhibition of local building materials and using and town-planning projects. The main subjects nsidered by the Working Party were building mate- als and construction methods, governing principles for ilding codes and housing standards, and progress of e housing centres in the region was reviewed. The orking Party recommended a set of guiding principles r housing standards and building codes to be used as basis for framing new or amending existing legislation the countries of the region. It also emphasized the ed for co-ordination of research activities on housing d building materials carried out in different countries the region. It recommended that the composition of e Working Party should be extended to provide for e participation of experts delegated by Governments.

The sixth session of the Sub-Committee on Iron and teel, held in Bangkok in August 1955, considered the ans and problems of the iron and steel and allied dustries in the region; the classification of iron and eel scrap; the processes of iron manufacture without king coal and their applicability to ECAFE coun- ies; and the manufacture of steel in converters with p-blown high-purity oxygen. It stressed the need for standard system of scrap classification. On the ques- on of manufacture of iron without coking coal, it mphasized the need for laboratory and pilot plant tests d careful investigations of the physical and chemical roperties of raw materials before commercial opera- ons could be undertaken. It instructed the secretariat make a study of the demand for steel products in the untries of the region.

The fourth session of the Working Party on Small- cale Industries and Handicraft Marketing, held at angkok in November 1955, concentrated its attention an examination of the technical and economic aspects the ceramics industry. Concurrently, the secretariat ganized a market clinic at which raw materials and nished products of ceramic industry were exhibited. he Working Party also considered the production and arketing aspects of small-scale industries generally d the recommendations of the Study Group of Cot- ge Industry Experts which had visited Japan in 1954. It decided to devote its next session to the leather goods and tanning industry.

Members of the secretariats of ECAFE, the ILO and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization met, on this occasion, with a representative of WHO, for the fifth session of the Inter-Secretariat Working Party on Trained Personnel for Economic Development. The Working Party reviewed the progress made in the countries of the region with respect to management training facilities, man-power surveys, productivity centres, and the technical man-power problems especially of small-scale industries, and recommended the use of mobile units by training and research institutions.

The Electric Power Sub-Committee, at its fifth session held in Bangalore in March 1956, dealt with questions of rural electrification, assessment of hydro-electric power potentials of countries of the region, use of atomic power for generating electricity, and standards for electrical plant and equipment. It recommended the convening of a working party of experts on the assessment of hydro-electric potentials of countries of the region. After the meeting, the delegates undertook a short tour of selected electric power projects in India. Preparations were completed, in co-operation with TAA, for a study tour of electric power experts from the region to Europe and the United States of America commencing towards the end of June 1956.

The second session of the Sub-Committee on Mineral Resources Development, which met in Tokyo in June 1956, reviewed current mining developments in the region and considered the report of the Study Group of Geologists and Mining Engineers from the ECAFE region on their visit to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Western Europe. In co-operation with the Economic Commission for Europe, the secretariat completed a report on standard coal classification for regional use and assisted countries of the region in arranging laboratory testing facilities.

The Working Party of Senior Geologists on the Preparation of a Regional Geological Map of Asia and the Far East, at its second meeting held in Tokyo in June 1956, reviewed the progress made in the preparation of maps in several countries and the co-operation among those countries in joint surveys.

The Committee on Industry and Trade, at its eighth session held in January 1956, in reviewing the activities of its subsidiary bodies, emphasized the importance of developing trained personnel in respect of iron and steel, mineral resources, small-scale industries and, generally, for economic development, endorsed study tours of experts in the fields of housing, mineral resources and iron and steel, and indicated the scope for regional co-operation in a number of activities. It also recommended the formation of a joint ECAFE/ECE Working Group of Experts to examine the feasibility of establishing an experimental station for underground gasification of coal in the region, in co-operation with experts from interested countries outside the region.

Trade

The Committee on Industry and Trade, at its eighth session, considered a report on the activities of the secretariat in the field of trade, and recommended the early completion by the secretariat of studies on rules and regulations concerning the product of international

trade; ocean freight rates; techniques for the organization of trade fairs and exhibitions; facilities for trade of land-locked countries; and formulation of proposals for the establishment of a training centre for trade promotion. Work in the field of standardization and commercial arbitration was carried out in close co-operation with the International Organization for Standardization and the International Chamber of Commerce respectively with a view to consideration of the question by the Trade Sub-Committee at its second session. The secretariat printed and issued the *Glossary of Commodity Terms* and completed a study on "Market Analysis of Coconut and Coconut Products".

In reviewing trade activities and problems, the Committee on Industry and Trade recommended that trade regulations and procedure should be simplified, that the needs of land-locked countries in the matter of transit trade should be given full recognition in accordance with international law and practice, and that consideration should be given to the possibility of establishing a study centre within the region for training in trade promotion.

(iv) *Inland transport*

The third session of the Inland Waterway Sub-Committee, which met in Dacca, India, in October 1955, considered and approved the final draft of the "Convention regarding the Measurement and Registration of Vessels employed in Inland Navigation". Work continued on inland ports, a uniform system of shore marks for inland waterways, and on plans for inland waterway transport development. In co-operation with the International Labour Organisation, a Regional Training Centre for Diesel Marine Mechanics was opened in Rangoon in April 1956.

The third session of the Highway Sub-Committee, which met in Manila in November 1955, considered questions relating to water-bound macadam construction, low-cost roads and soil stabilization, bituminous construction, and engineering and traffic aspects of highway safety, and recommended that a seminar on highway safety should be convened in co-operation with TAA. The convening of a seminar on low-cost roads and soil stabilization was also recommended.

The fourth session of the Railway Sub-Committee, which met in New Delhi in March 1956, considered problems of transport co-ordination; improved turnround of rolling stock; railway track sleepers; refrigerator inland transport; statistical study of performance of transport systems; and incidence of railway accidents. The session was preceded by a study tour of the principal railway installations in India. With a view to making greater use of the facilities of the Training Centre for Railway Operating and Signalling Officials in Lahore, it was agreed by the Government of Pakistan, ECAFE and TAA to invite certain Middle-Eastern countries to send trainees to the Centre.

The Inland Transport Committee, which held its fifth session in January 1956 in Bangkok, reviewed activities in the fields of railways, highways and inland waterways, and considered secretariat reports on co-ordination of transport, statistical study of performance of transport systems, and refrigerator inland transport. The Committee laid down the broad lines on which further work on transport co-ordination should be carried out. In addition, it recommended the inclusion of telecommunications in the terms of reference of the Inland Transport Committee and suggested a tentative programme which should be carried out in co-operation with the International Telecommunication Union and any other appropriate United Nations specialized agency.

(v) *Food and agriculture*

The joint ECAFE/FAO agriculture division continued its work on agricultural development planning and financing; study of price and income elasticity of demand for rice and other cereals; marketing of agricultural products; and food and agricultural price policies. A report on the *Marketing of Major Edible Oils (Liquid) and Oil Seeds in the ECAFE Region* was published. Preparations are in hand for a joint FAO/ECAFE centre on agricultural finance and credit, to be convened in October 1956 in Lahore.

(vi) *Flood control and development of water resources*

A Working Group of Experts on hydrologic data, convened in co-operation with the World Meteorological Organization in September 1955 in Bangkok, finalized a hydrologic terminology for early publication. In accordance with a recommendation of ECAFE, a team of experts made a reconnaissance survey of the lower basin of the Mekong River in April-May 1956 with a view to working out a preliminary plan for water resources development of the river and to identifying some individual projects. A preliminary study of methods employed for earthwork construction in selected countries was carried out by the secretariat in connexion with a forthcoming seminar on this subject. The secretariat co-operated with the Bureau of Economic Affairs at Headquarters in the preparation of a report on water resources development. A survey of water resources development in Ceylon, China: Taiwan, Japan and the Philippines was also published.

(vii) *Statistics*

As noted above under section 5 of the present chapter, a Workshop on Problems of Budget Reclassification in the ECAFE region was convened in Bangkok in August/September 1955.

At its twelfth session, ECAFE noted the report of the United Nations Seminar on Population in Asia and the Far East and adopted a resolution which recommended to the Economic and Social Council the early organization of a seminar for the discussion of problems of transmigration and land settlement on the basis of field studies from demographic, economic, social and technical points of view.

The Fourth Regional Conference of Statisticians of Asia and the Far East, jointly convened by the ECAFE secretariat and the Statistical Office of the United Nations, met in March-April 1956 in Bangkok and considered questions of population and housing censuses. It commended to the attention of Governments in Asia the programme of world population census of 1960 being developed by the United Nations, and recommended that efforts should be made to take a population census during the decade 1956-1965, preferably in or around 1960. It was also recommended that the Regional Conference should be reconstituted on a regular and continuing basis as the Conference of Asian Statisticians

h authority to set up working parties, if necessary, leal with specific subjects.

n addition to maintaining and publishing various ic statistical series in the quarterly *Economic Bul- n for Asia and the Far East,* the secretariat has been paring a comprehensive index of the major statistical es relating to ECAFE countries.

(viii) *Advisory services*

The ECAFE secretariat continued and strengthened advisory services within the framework of its work gramme and in co-operation with TAA and the spe- ized agencies. Advisory services were rendered in fields of economic development; flood control and ter resources development; hydro-electric power; neral resources; housing; highways; railways; in- d waterways; and statistics. The secretariat took an ive part in regard to the formulation of requests for hnical assistance under the United Nations pro- mmes, and assisted TAA with suggestions as to ruitment of experts, briefing of TAA experts and ssions in the region, and comments on the periodic orts of TAA experts.

(c) Economic Commission for Latin America

At its sixth session, held at Bogotá, Colombia, from August to 16 September 1955, the Economic Com- ssion for Latin America reviewed the activities of e secretariat and adopted a number of resolutions signed to translate into practice the work done by e Commission and secretariat, which had been con- rned chiefly with the encouragement of economic velopment. In the Fifth Committee of the Whole, hich met at Santiago, Chile, on 14 and 15 May 1956, e Commission considered the progress report by the xecutive Secretary and adopted the programme of ork and priorities.

At those meetings, note was taken of the co-operation d support extended to the Commission by the Govern- ents of members and other international organizations, d appreciation was expressed for the co-ordination hieved between ECLA and the Inter-American conomic and Social Council.

Mindful that the proposals of the Secretary-General sed on the recommendations of the Survey Group ould be considered at the eleventh session of the eneral Assembly, the delegations present at the meet- g of the Committee of the Whole expressed their hope at the Assembly would accept those proposals, in der that the secretariat of the Commission might have its disposal the necessary means of carrying out s work programme.

The *Economic Survey of Latin America, 1955,* which ill be published in June 1956, examines trends in conomic growth both as a whole and with reference selected countries, and analyses problems relating the balance of payments and to monetary and ex- hange policy. Like its predecessors, the *Survey* con- ins a detailed review of recent data and trends in griculture, industry, mining and energy.

The first number of the *Economic Bulletin for Latin merica* was published in January 1956, after the egular series had been inaugurated with a special issue. his meets the need for a periodic publication which ill make it possible to keep the principal economic ata under review.

(i) *Activities in the field of general economic development*

The work of the secretariat serves to clarify the basic concepts of economic development and relates the solution of practical problems to the theoretical aspects of economic policy. Following the presentation of a report entitled *An Introduction to the Technique of Programming* at the sixth session of ECLA, a thorough revision was undertaken of the studies on the economic development of Brazil and Colombia, representing the application of research on programming to the specific case of these countries. A similar study has been undertaken in Argentina, where a United Nations mission comprising representatives of ECLA, the Technical Assistance Administration, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at Headquarters and other international organizations is working in collaboration with Argentine experts. Preliminary steps have also been taken to carry out, in collaboration with TAA, a study on the potential economic development of Bolivia, while work is in progress on the analysis of certain features of Mexico's economy, particularly those of external origin.

A study of monetary and fiscal policy for the programming of economic development will be carried out in conjunction with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. A preliminary analysis entitled "Government Income and Expenditure, 1947-54", appeared in the *Economic Survey of Latin America, 1955.* Another study is to be carried out in collaboration with TAA on organization and administrative procedure for the execution of an economic development policy.

Under the joint ECLA/TAA economic development training programme, the fourth of the annual courses, attended by seven trainees, was held at Santiago while an intensive course, in which about a hundred Colombian officials and economists took part, was given at Bogotá. The fifth regular course, in which twelve trainees are participating, began in April 1956. Preparations are in hand for a further intensive course for Brazilian economists, to be held at Rio de Janeiro in the last quarter of 1956. The special courses include lectures and round-table discussions on the theory and programming of economic development, systems of national accounts, and the preparation, evalution and presentation of projects.

The greater part of an investment projects manual, setting out methods and standards for the preparation and presentation of projects, has been completed. Part of the manual is already being used in the training courses for economists and when completed it will be circulated for use in project programming in Latin American countries.

(ii) *Industry studies*

The iron and steel transforming industries and the pulp and paper industry are ECLA's main subjects of study in this aspect of economic development. Studies have been completed on the iron and steel transforming industries in selected Latin American countries and on the prospects for the pulp and paper industry in the region.

In October 1956, a Meeting of Experts on Steel Making and Transforming Industries is to be held at São Paulo under the joint auspices of the Government of Brazil, ECLA, TAA and the Associaço Brasileira

de Metais. It is hoped that specific conclusions will be reached on those industries and that some technical and economic aspects of iron and steel transforming processes will be systematically investigated. A large number of background documents will be presented by the secretariat, by experts and by technical institutions of Latin America and the industrialized countries.

The Pulp and Paper Advisory Group, which comprises experts from ECLA, FAO and TAA, is co-operating with Latin American Governments and private undertakings in the development of specific projects in this field.

(iii) *Energy*

A preliminary report on the development of energy production and utilization in Latin America was submitted for consideration at the sixth session of ECLA and is now under careful revision by the secretariat. This report is an initial review of the problem as a whole, including an analysis of consumption of the different forms of energy, the existing deficit, the assessment of future needs and resources of energy, methods of utilization and their efficiency, and the financial problems involved in the satisfaction of anticipated needs.

The secretariat also has in hand projects on efficiency in production and utilization of the various forms of energy, assessment of the hydroelectric resources of Latin America and the utilization of the multiple water resources of the region. The first of these projects is being carried out in collaboration with TAA, and the second will be carried out in collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization.

(iv) *Agriculture and livestock production*

The various projects which form part of the Joint ECLA/FAO Programme are being carried out in accordance with the agreement in force since 1954, which lays down the principles on which co-operation between the two organizations is based. A study on productivity and costs of coffee production is nearing completion for El Salvador and is well advanced for Colombia. In the case of Mexico, the preliminary research has already been carried out and it will thus be possible to begin the field work in the near future.

Another joint study, concerning the technical and economical factors affecting livestock production and the measures that should be adopted to increase production and consumption, has begun in Argentina and Chile and will later be extended to other Latin American countries.

Preliminary work on a third study, dealing with national agricultural price policies, has been completed and the report will be ready by the end of 1956. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the effects of the different policies on the production, consumption and trading of agricultural products.

ECLA and FAO are also to collaborate in studying the agricultural aspects of the research undertaken by the United Nations mission in Argentina. The Government of that country has asked for the co-operation of specialists in particular fields under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, and plans are being made to send experts from the International Labour Office, FAO and TAA.

(v) *International trade and finance*

The study of inter-Latin American trade submitted at the sixth session of ECLA provided the first comprehensive picture of the characteristics and structure of regional trade. It contained an analysis of trade policies, trade balances, international agreements, and the influence of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade on Latin American trade and payments problems. Chiefly in relation to the last-mentioned matter, a group of experts from the secretariat visited those South American countries which have the greatest influence on regional trade in order to collect information and suggest specific measures for encouraging multilateral trade. The group's report and the notes prepared by the secretariat on particular commodities will provide background material for the work of the Trade Committee, which is to hold its first session at Santiago next October. The Committee, will be primarily concerned with drawing up specific proposals for development of trade, preparing the ground for trade negotiations and guiding the formation of Latin American trade policy.

(vi) *Social aspects of economic development*

Under the reorganization plan approved by the General Assembly in 1954, the Secretary-General has detailed to ECLA, on an experimental basis, a limited number of staff members of the Bureau of Social Affairs at Headquarters. Thus, within existing budgetary provisions, a unit has been established to prepare reports on the social aspects of the economic problems analysed by the Commission in its studies and to carry out research in related fields. The Commission's Fifth Committee of the Whole noted with satisfaction this step by the Secretary-General.

Programme of Economic Integration and Reciprocity in Central America

The Programme of Economic Integration and Reciprocity, which is being carried out by ECLA with the collaboration of TAA, the ILO, FAO and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, now includes studies on external trade, technical research and training institutes, transport, customs regulations, the financing of economic development, electrification, statistical co-ordination and studies of manufacturing industries and of agriculture and livestock production.

At the third session of the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee, held at Managua, Nicaragua, from 23 to 29 January 1956, the evaluation study of the Integration and Reciprocity Programme prepared by the Secretariat under a resolution adopted at the Committee's previous meeting was examined. The study recapitulated the requirements of the programme in the light of its original terms; analysed the work completed and that now in progress; reviewed the principal changes in Central American economic conditions between 1952 and 1955; evaluated the interrelation of different kinds of projects, and presented preliminary studies on ten additional industries, the establishment of which would further Central American economic integration. The Committee declared the development of the ten industries in question as well as others to be important for purposes of integration, and asked the secretariat to present similar evaluation studies at its future sessions.

n order to encourage the participation of private iative from the five Central American countries in development of industrial projects under the in- ration programme, the Committee decided to create entral American Commission for Industrial Initia- and asked the secretariat to prepare a draft law h a uniform definition of regional integration in- tries. It also establish an *ad hoc* Committee to draw a draft treaty on free trade and economic integration a list of commodities not subject to customs duties to any restriction or control. The Committee pre- ed the requested draft treaty at a meeting held in xico from 24 to 29 March 1956 and circulated it to Governments concerned for consideration.

The Advanced School of Public Administration for ntral America has continued its normal activities. 20 January 1956, the Central American Research stitute for Industry was established at Guatemala y under a resolution adopted at the extraordinary sion of the Economic Co-operation Committee held San Salvador in May 1955.

The Committee adopted the report of the third session the Central American Trade Sub-Committee, held Managua, in November 1955, and requested the b-Committee to prepare, in collaboration with the retariat and other international agencies, a draft plan the equalization of Central American customs tariffs. e Sub-Committee continued its work on the imple- ntation of the Uniform Central American Customs menclature, a standard customs code and procedures, d trade policy.

The Central American Statistical Co-ordination Sub- mmittee held its first session in October 1955 and second session in May 1956. It adopted resolutions ned at the improvement and co-ordination of Central nerican statistical services, especially those relating industry, transport, agriculture, livestock, forestry d demography.

10. Human rights

(a) Draft International Covenants on Human Rights

At its tenth session, the General Assembly instructed s Third Committee to undertake the examination, rticle by article, of the draft Covenant on Civil and olitical Rights and the draft Covenant on Economic, ocial and Cultural Rights. In order to assist the ssembly, the Secretary-General had, as requested by solution 833 (IX), prepared a concise annotation of e text of the two draft Covenants. The annotation as an analytical summary, article by article, of the umerous discussions, comments and other documenta- on accumulated in the six or seven years during hich the draft Covenants were under consideration y United Nations organs.

The Committee approved only the text of the pream- le and article 1, on the right of peoples to self- etermination, for inclusion in both Covenants. It con- idered article 2 of the draft Covenant on Economic, ocial and Cultural Rights which deals with the obliga- ons States would assume under this Covenant. It was ecided not to vote on this article until the substantive rticles of the Covenant were adopted.

Sharp differences of opinion were repeatedly ex- ressed on article 1 and, in an attempt to find a way towards a solution to the controversial issue of self-determination, the Secretary-General made a statement when the draft Covenants were first taken up at the tenth session. His statement concerned both the draft Covenants and the item "Recommendations concerning international respect for the right of peoples and nations to self-determination" (see section (*b*) below). He suggested that the Assembly might establish an *ad hoc* committee which would attempt to reach agreement on certain basic principles relating to the whole question of self-determination; the committee might prepare a declaration on self-determination which "might help in finding a way out of the political *impasse* in which the draft Covenants on Human Rights now find themselves". Some support was expressed during the discussion for the Secretary-General's ideas, but the majority felt that an article on self-determination should be included in the Covenants. Attempts to find a wording for the article which would be more generally acceptable than the text submitted by the Commission on Human Rights resulted in a new text being adopted. While the new article, like the original text, is acceptable to the majority, it is strongly opposed by those Governments who expressed objections to the article proposed by the Commission.

The General Assembly will continue its consideration of the draft Covenants at its eleventh session.

(b) Right of self-determination

In 1954, the Commission on Human Rights recommended that the General Assembly should establish two commissions: one to conduct a survey of the status of the right of peoples and nations to "permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources" and to make recommendations where necessary for strengthening this right; the other to examine any situation resulting from alleged denial or inadequate realization of the right of self-determination, to provide its good offices for the peaceful rectification of any such situation and, if no adjustment could be effected, to report the facts, with appropriate recommendations, to the Assembly. In 1955, the Commission re-affirmed these proposals and recommended that, in the conduct of the survey regarding natural wealth and resources "due regard shall be paid to the rights and duties of States under international law and to the importance of encouraging international co-operation in the economic development of under-developed countries". The Economic and Social Council, at its twentieth session, added a third proposal to those of the Commission. It recommended the establishment of a commission of five persons appointed by the Secretary-General to conduct a thorough study of the concept of self-determination, and outlined the terms of reference of this commission.

In his statement to the Third Committee of the General Assembly (see section (*a*) above), the Secretary-General expressed certain doubts regarding all three commissions. He envisaged the establishment of a committee composed of government representatives which would attempt to reach agreement on basic principles. Once agreement had been reached these principles might, he thought, be applied by the United Nations in the solution of specific problems.

The item "Recommendations concerning international respect for the right of peoples and nations to self-determination" was not discussed at the tenth

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session of the General Assembly but was postponed to the eleventh.

(c) Annual reports on human rights and studies of specific rights or groups of rights

The twelfth session of the Commission on Human Rights was the first held since the adoption of its new long-range programme of work in 1955 after it had completed the draft International Covenants on Human Rights and forwarded them to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The Commission devoted considerable time at this session to the item "Development of the work of the United Nations for the wider observance of, and respect for, human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout the world", and adopted three resolutions concerning annual reports on human rights, studies of specific rights or groups of rights and advisory services in the field of human rights.

In the first resolution, the Commission decided to consider general developments and progress achieved in the field of human rights and measures taken to safeguard human liberties in States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies relating to the rights enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to the right of peoples to self-determination. The Commission will transmit to the Council such comments, conclusions and recommendations of an objective and general character as it deems appropriate. It will base its consideration on information furnished for publication in the *Yearbook on Human Rights,* on additional reports which Member States are to be asked to submit and on reports from specialized agencies. The Commission recommended that the Council should request Governments to transmit reports annually to the Secretary-General describing developments and progress achieved in human rights and measures taken to safeguard human liberties in their metropolitan areas and Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories. The reports will deal with the rights enumerated in the Declaration and the right of peoples to self-determination. The Secretary-General is asked to prepare a brief summary of these reports on a topical basis.

Under the second resolution, the Commission decided to undertake studies of specific rights or groups of rights in States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies and to stress in these studies general developments, progress achieved and measures taken to safeguard human liberty with such recommendations of an objective and general character as may be necessary. The Commission appointed a committee consisting of four of its members to prepare these studies with the assistance of the Secretariat. The Commission selected, subject to the Council's approval, the right of everyone to be free from arbitrary arrest, detention and exile as the first study to be made.

Both these resolutions still require action by the Council.

(d) Advisory services in the field of human rights

A number of new tasks have devolved upon the Secretary-General as a result of General Assembly resolution 926 (X) on advisory services in the field of human rights. Pursuant to this resolution the Secretary-General has informed Member States of the programme outlined therein and of the procedures to be followed in obtaining assistance; submitted reports to the Commission on Human Rights at its twelfth session, to the Commission on the Status of Women at its tenth session and to the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-first session, on measures taken in compliance with the resolution; and transmitted to the Council's twenty-first session observations of specialized agencies on the programme. The Secretary-General also submitted to the Council, at its twenty-first session, a separate report on his plans for the news personnel programme originally approved by the Council in resolution 574 A (XIX), and drew the Council's attention to resolutions on advisory services in human rights which had been adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its twelfth session and by the Commission on the Status of Women at its tenth session.

In a statement made at the opening meeting of the twelfth session of the Commission on Human Rights, the Secretary-General outlined a philosophy which might be helpful in the initial planning of the programme of advisory services. In the first place, without prejudice to the value of fellowships and the services of experts, some emphasis might be given to seminars at which stress would be laid on the sharing of successful experiences in dealing with problems of human rights. A country with significant experience of minority problems might for example organize, with the assistance of the United Nations, a seminar on the protection of minorities; or a group of Governments might similarly organize a seminar to discuss common or regional problems. In a word, Governments should move from strength rather than from weakness.

The Council has requested the Secretary-General to continue all aspects of the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, to undertake seminars, preferably on a regional basis, along the lines suggested in the resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women and to determine, after consultation with specialized agencies, the areas or types of activities in the field of human rights in which assistance may be requested from the United Nations. The Secretary-General has also been asked to seek the co-operation of professional organizations and other interested non-governmental organizations with competence in this area.

(e) Freedom of information

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 841 (IX), the Secretary-General prepared a draft protocol to the International Convention concerning the Use of Broadcasting in the Cause of Peace (Geneva, 1936), and circulated it to the States Parties to the Convention, asking them whether they wished to transfer to the United Nations the functions performed under the Convention by the League of Nations. The draft protocol provides for the transfer of such functions and also for the accession of States Members and non-members of the United Nations which are not Parties or signatories to the Convention, and includes new articles based on General Assembly resolution 424 (V).

Of the twenty-six States Parties to the Convention, nine have agreed with the proposed transfer of functions. Three of these nine States further stated that the draft protocol was agreeable to them.

Pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its nineteenth session, the Governments of States Members of the United Nations or of a specialized agency were requested to transmit to the Secretary-General information, plans and recommendations concerning media of information in under-developed countries. The Secretary-General was requested, in consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to prepare an analysis of the information and recommendations and to present, on the basis of this analysis, elements necessary for the formulation by the Council of a programme of concrete action and measures which could be taken on the international plane for the development of information enterprises of under-developed countries. It was agreed that this report should be submitted at the Council's twenty-third session. The Secretary-General has received replies from the following States: Afghanistan, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Ceylon, Honduras, Luxembourg, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Switzerland, Thailand, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Viet-Nam and Yugoslavia.

At its twelfth session, the Commission on Human Rights decided to place on the agenda of its thirteenth session the following item: "Review of the progress made in the field of freedom of information and consideration of the measures for the effective promotion of that right, with such recommendations as may be necessary".

(*f*) Prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, at its eighth session held in January 1956, concentrated mainly on problems relating to the prevention of discrimination. It examined a draft report on discrimination in education, prepared by the Special Rapporteur appointed to undertake the study with the assistance of the Secretariat, and a communication from the Director-General of the International Labour Office relating to the study of discrimination in the field of employment and occupation. The Sub-Commission also adopted a resolution concerning further studies in the field of discrimination. It also examined a report prepared by the Secretary-General concerning measures to be taken for the cessation of certain forms of propaganda and drafted some observations on the proceedings of the United Nations Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations interested in the Eradication of Prejudice and Discrimination, held in Geneva in 1955. Lastly, the Sub-Commission drafted a number of recommendations to the Commission on Human Rights concerning advisory services in the field of human rights.

The draft report on the study discrimination in education contained an account of the method followed in preparing the study, as well as the study itself. The study was divided into three parts: the introduction contained a survey of fundamental principles and some definitions of the terms used, together with observations on the documentary material utilized and the forms of discrimination covered by the study. The information received was classified and analysed in the second part. The third part contained the conclusions and the proposals of the Special Rapporteur for recommendations to be made by the Sub-Commission to the Commission on Human Rights. Attached to the report, as addenda, were detailed summaries of information relating to twenty-eight particular countries.

After a detailed examination of the preliminary section and of parts I and II of the body of the report, the Sub-Commission expressed its deep appreciation of the work already accomplished; it decided that the Special Rapporteur should continue to discharge his functions and that he should undertake, for presentation at the next session, a revision of his present draft report in the light of any further information from the sources previously enumerated by the Sub-Commission, as well as the observations and suggestions of the members of the Sub-Commission. The Sub-Commission also decided that a copy of the draft report should be sent to the Commission on the Status of Women, for consideration and comment on the section relating to discrimination based on sex; and that another copy should be sent to the Director-General of UNESCO, inviting that organization to comment on the draft report and to lend such assistance to the work of the Sub-Commission and its Special Rapporteur as might be considered appropriate. The Commission on the Status of Women examined the Special Rapporteur's draft report at its tenth session and formulated its observations on the section that had been referred to it.

The Sub-Commission also requested the Secretary-General to transmit the information that had been collected on discrimination in the teaching profession to the ILO for use in preparing its study on discrimination in employment and occupation. The Sub-Commission also examined the Special Rapporteur's conclusions and proposals set forth in part III of the draft report which were designed to enable the Sub-Commission to make recommendations for action to the Commission on Human Rights, but it took no decision on their substance.

After taking note of a communication from the Director-General of the ILO regarding the study of discrimination in the field of employment and occupation, the Sub-Commission, while expressing its concern over the delay which had retarded its consideration of that important study, noted with satisfaction the decision to place the item on the agenda of the fortieth session of the International Labour Conference and noted, further, that the report to be submitted to the Conference would be communicated to the United Nations in time to afford the Sub-Commission the opportunity to submit its comments for consideration by the Conference. The Sub-Commission decided to give priority to the consideration of the subject of discrimination in the field of employment and occupation at its ninth session, with a view to making recommendations within the framework of the United Nations.

With regard to further studies in the field of discrimination, the Sub-Commission decided to proceed with the study both of discrimination in the matter of political rights and in the matter of religious rights and practices, and to appoint from among its members two special rapporteurs, to whom those studies should be entrusted. The Sub-Commission invited the Secretary-General to lend his assistance and co-operation in the course of 1956 to the study of discrimination in religious rights and practices, and in 1957 to the study of discrimination in political rights, such assistance and co-operation to be continued until both studies were com-

pleted. The two studies were to be carried out in accordance with the general instructions given by the Sub-Commission in regard to the study of discrimination in education.

After examining a report by the Secretary-General on "Measures for the Cessation of National, Racial or Religious Hostility", prepared in compliance with a resolution adopted by the Sub-Commission at its sixth session (1954), the Sub-Commission suggested, bearing in mind the importance of the question, that the following item should be retained on its agenda for its ninth session: "Measures to be taken for the cessation of any advocacy of national, racial, or religious hostility that constitutes an incitement to hatred and violence, jointly or separately".

After considering the proceedings of the United Nations Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations, held in Geneva in 1955, the Sub-Commission expressed its satisfaction at the holding of the Conference and the results achieved. With regard, however, to the request made by the Conference to the Economic and Social Council to consider the convening of another Conference, if possible within two years, the Sub-Commission considered that the non-governmental organizations should have the opportunity to submit to the Commission on Human Rights their considered views as to the date, duration and agenda of any further conference that might be convened. The Sub-Commission's resolution was considered by the Commission at its twelfth session. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to invite the non-governmental organizations to state their views on the date, duration, programme, objectives and methods of any further conference, and to transmit those views to the Sub-Commission and to the Commission itself in order that these organs might consider them at their next sessions.

(*g*) Allegations regarding infringements of trade union rights

Allegations of infringements of trade union rights received from Governments or trade unions or employers' organizations are transmitted by the Secretary-General, on behalf of the Economic and Social Council, to the International Labour Organisation for possible referral to its Fact-Finding and Conciliation Commission on Freedom of Association, if the allegations concern States members of that organization. During the period under review the Secretary-General forwarded thirty such allegations.

(*h*) Slavery

The ten-member Committee appointed by the Economic and Social Council at its nineteenth session for the purpose of preparing a text of a draft supplementary convention on slavery and servitude met at Headquarters from 16 January to 6 February 1956. It had before it the draft supplementary convention which the United Kingdom Government had submitted at the Council's seventeenth session. It took as its working paper a memorandum prepared by the Secretary-General, containing a systematic summary of all the comments that had been received on the draft supplementary convention from Governments, the International Labour Organisation and non-governmental organizations; the memorandum also contained a number of remarks and observations by the Secretary-General.

The report of the Committee was considered by the Council at its twenty-first session. Pursuant to a resolution adopted at that session, the Secretary-General has convened a conference of plenipotentiaries to meet in Geneva on 13 August 1956, in order to complete the drafting of the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, and to open it for signature.

(*i*) Forced labour

The Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Director-General of the International Labour Office, completed the preparation of a report on forced labour and submitted it to the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-first session. As requested by the Council, this report set forth certain new information on systems of forced labour submitted by Member States and non-governmental organizations in consultative status, together with comments on this information submitted by the Governments concerned.

In the future, the Secretary-General will transmit to the Director-General any information which he may receive relating to forced labour, notwithstanding the present procedure relating to communications concerning human rights. This new procedure for handling information concerning forced labour was established by the Council at its twenty-first session following its consideration of the above-mentioned report on forced labour and of a communication from the Director-General requesting the Secretary-General's collaboration in the work of an *ad hoc* committtee on forced labour recently established by the ILO.

(*j*) Plight of survivors of so-called scientific experiments in nazi concentration camps

The Secretary-General has continued to forward to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany information received concerning cases of persons claiming to have been victims of so-called scientific experiments in nazi concentration camps. During the year under review, two new claims only have been transmitted, making a total of 528 claims forwarded. Several claimants have however written again to the Secretary-General, requesting his assistance in obtaining a favourable decision from the Federal Government, or forwarding supplementary information to be transmitted to the Government.

The Secretary-General has requested the Federal Republic of Germany to furnish a full account of the action it has taken in connexion with this matter, so as to enable him to submit a final report to the Economic and Social Council.

(*k*) Prisoners of war

The *Ad Hoc* Commission on Prisoners of War decided not to hold a session in 1955, but to meet at a later date. It decided to submit in the meantime an interim report to the Secretary-General indicating the progress that had been made towards the solution of the problem of prisoners of war since its sixth session in 1954. The Commission noted that further progress had been achieved in the repatriation of prisoners of war and detained civilians, as well as in the clarification of the fate of hitherto missing persons, largely through negotiations conducted directly between the Govern-

ments concerned or indirectly through the co-operative efforts of Red Cross societies. The Commission also took note of negotiations that were taking place between Governments concerned with a view to the release of all Japanese and German prisoners from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and of all Japanese prisoners from the People's Republic of China.

(*l*) Yearbook on Human Rights

The *Yearbook on Human Rights* for 1954, the preparation of which was completed in 1956, is the ninth volume in its series. The *Yearbook* surveys developments in relation to human rights during the year as reflected in constitutions, laws and judicial decisions and in international treaties and agreements. It includes information relating to Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories as well as States and also gives an account of the most significant decisions taken by United Nations organs on the promotion of human rights.

The Economic and Social Council, at its twentieth session, took note of the decision of the Commission on Human Rights to include in the *Yearbook* for 1955 statements furnished by Governments on the application of the right of every person to be free from arbitrary arrest, detention and exile (as set forth in article 9 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights), and in the *Yearbook* for 1956 a corresponding section on the right of motherhood and childhood to special care and assistance and the right of all children, whether born in or out of wedlock, to the same social protection (as set forth in article 25, paragraph 2, of the Universal Declaration).

The Council also endorsed the Secretary-General's proposal to make available in the United Nations Headquarters library bibliographical material on works and studies relating to human rights. It requested the Secretary-General to suspend action on the preparation of a bibliographical index to the *Yearbook* pending consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization regarding the availability of bibliographical material on that subject and to report to the Council at its twenty-second session on the outcome of those consultations. The Secretary-General has accordingly submitted a report recording the agreement of the Secretary-General and the Director-General of UNESCO that the *Yearbook* correspondents might be requested each year to furnish titles of significant publications. The Director-General expressed his willingness to furnish each year titles of significant publications available to UNESCO.

(*m*) Celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The date 10 December 1958 will be the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Commission on Human Rights, at its twelfth session, recognized that this was an event of outstanding importance and should be given proper recognition. It appointed a committee consisting of States represented on the Bureau of the Commission (France, the Philippines, Chile and Pakistan) to develop plans for the celebration in consultation with the Secretary-General, with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the other specialized agencies, and with interested non-governmental organizations. The committee will report to the next session of the Commission.

(*n*) Communications

In accordance with the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 75 (V), as amended, the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission on Human Rights, at its twelfth session, two lists of communications concerning human rights received from individuals and non-governmental organizations: a non-confidential list containing summaries of twenty communications dealing with the principles involved in the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights, and a confidential list of communications containing summaries of or references to 3,243 communications alleging violations of human rights. Copies of the communications included in the confidential list were sent to Members concerned. Eleven replies, relating to 388 of these communications, were received from Governments and were brought by the Secretary-General to the Commission's attention. In addition, the Secretary-General presented lists of those communications which related to their respective fields to the Commission's Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its eighth session and to the Commission on the Status of Women at its tenth session.

11. Status of women

Preparatory work by the Secretary-General for the tenth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which was held in March 1956 at the European Office, included a summary of selected technical assistance projects affecting the status of women, a publication on the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, a report on activities directed towards the recognition and exercise of political rights of women, and a report on methods used in campaigns for equal pay for equal work.

At this session, the Commission adopted a programme of work which included several new topics, notably the consideration of training opportunities and the occupational outlook for women in professional and technical fields, and the study of the situation of working women with family responsibilities. The Secretary-General was invited to prepare documentation on these subjects for the consideration of the Commission at its eleventh session.

(*a*) Economic opportunities for women

The Secretary-General prepared for the tenth session a preliminary memorandum on a survey of publications available on the occupational outlook for women in the fields of health, social welfare, engineering and architecture. The Commission expressed great interest, and decided to initiate a comprehensive consideration of the whole problem of preparation of women for various occupations and the possibility of their making use of such preparation in various fields. It is anticipated that the Commission will have for consideration at its future sessions a series of reports dealing separately with each of a number of countries and containing information on educational opportunities for women at all levels, including academic as well as vocational, technical and professional training; the reports would also contain information on existing school facilities, on plans for their increase and on types of curricula. It is expected that such data will be linked to information on openings for women in the various occupations and professions,

and that the studies will discuss these matters not only from the legal point of view, but also with reference to the factual situation in each country, including existing prejudice against women and attitudes of the women themselves. As a first step in the preparation of this series of reports, the Commission invited the Secretary-General, in consultation with the specialized agencies concerned, to prepare for its eleventh session lists and descriptions of principal professional and technical fields of training and opportunities which are or are not available to women at present, as well as questions which might be circulated to Member States and non-governmental organizations in consultative status so as to obtain relevant information on this subject.

The Commission also at its tenth session considered progress reports prepared by the International Labour Office on part-time employment and the employment of older women workers and on opportunities for women in handicrafts and cottage industries. It felt that the questions of part-time employment and of employment of older women workers required further study, and additional reports will be prepared by the ILO for the eleventh session. The Commission also recommended that the Economic and Social Council should request the ILO to give special attention, in its further reports on the question of opportunities for women in handicrafts and cottage industries, to methods found useful in the sound organization of such crafts and industries, and to avoid the abuses of industrial homework. When the Commission adopted its programme of work, it was decided to request that the ILO's report on this subject should include information on social services available to women working in these fields.

A report on access of girls to vocational and technical training was prepared jointly by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and by the ILO for the tenth session; the Commission, however, decided to defer consideration until its eleventh session.

The Commission at its tenth session decided to undertake the consideration of the situation of working women with family responsibilities. This new subject was envisaged as including the responsibility of women for support of children or other dependents, and existing provisions for social insurance, welfare facilities and other benefits. The Commission then recommended that the Council should request the ILO to prepare, in collaboration with the Secretary-General and with the specialized agencies concerned, a report on activities in various countries for improving employment conditions in relation to the situation of working women with family responsibilities; it also recommended that the Council should invite the Secretary-General to obtain information concerning existing problems in this field and methods found effective in dealing with them, from non-governmental organizations with consultative status. When the Commission adopted its programme of work, it was decided to include information in the scope of the report on social security measures available to working women. The Commission requested that both reports should be presented, if possible, for its eleventh session.

Further consideration of the over-all question of the economic rights of women resulted in a recommendation to the Council to invite the Secretary-General and the ILO to prepare and submit to the Commission a series of reports concerning steps being taken by States Members of the United Nations and of the International Labour Organisation on the removal of economic discrimination against women in accordance with the recommendation made by the Council in resolution 587 F III (XX); this series of reports would be submitted to the twelfth and subsequent sessions of the Commission and the Secretary-General and the ILO would be invited to obtain the necessary information for this purpose from States Members of the United Nations and of the ILO.

(*b*) Educational opportunities for women

The continued interest taken by the Commission on the Status of Women in the field of educational opportunities for women was reflected in its discussion of the report of the Special Rapporteur on discrimination in the field of education, which was transmitted to the Commission by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities for consideration and comment on the section relating to discrimination based on sex (see section 10 (*f*) above).

The Commission requested the Secretary-General to transmit to the Sub-Commission and to the Special Rapporteur its comments on this document, as contained in the Commission's report, together with the records of the discussion. The Secretary-General was also invited to prepare an analytical summary of information on discrimination against women in education, utilizing the Special Rapporteur's report and country studies as well as other available sources, and to submit this summary for review by the Commission at its eleventh session in order that the summary and the recommendations of the Commission might be transmitted to the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-fourth session.

The Commission was informed that UNESCO would prepare for the eleventh session a progress report on access of women to education, dealing with methods used for increasing school attendance by girls, including attendance at vocational schools, and for promoting the employment of women, including married women, as teachers. A report will also be prepared by UNESCO on access of women to higher education, to be submitted to the Commission in 1958.

(*c*) Status of women in private law

At its tenth session, the Commission on the Status of Women considered two reports prepared by the Secretary-General to supplement studies presented at earlier sessions; the first, a supplementary report on the status of women in family law, and the second, an addendum to a report on the property rights of women.

After considering these reports in conjunction with the over-all status of women in private law, the Commission invited the Secretary-General to prepare a report for its eleventh session based on all the information which may be available to him on the practice of polygamy, child marriage, bride-price, and the right of the mother to exercise parental authority during marriage and to have custody and guardianship of the children after its dissolution, and indicating the progress achieved since the adoption by the General Assembly on 17 December 1954 of resolution 843 (IX).

(*d*) Nationality of married women

When discussing this item at its tenth session, the Commission on the Status of Women had before it two

reports prepared by the Secretary-General containing information supplementary to that set forth in the publication *Nationality of Married Women.*

The Commission considered the action taken by the General Assembly during its tenth session on the draft Convention on the Nationality of Married Women. At this session, the Third Committee had approved the preamble and substantive articles of the draft Convention, but the Sixth Committee had not completed its consideration of the formal clauses of the Convention which had been referred to it by the Third Committee. The Commission unanimously expressed the wish that the draft Convention should be adopted and opened for signature by all Member States at the conclusion of the forthcoming eleventh session of the Assembly.

The Secretary-General was urged by the Commission to continue his annual reports on recent changes in legislation affecting the nationality of married women.

(*e*) Political rights of women

Four reports concerning the political rights of women were prepared during the year. The Secretary-General's annual memorandum on constitutions, electoral laws and other legal instruments relating to the political rights of women, prepared for the tenth session of the General Assembly, included new additional information requested by the Commission on the Status of Women at its ninth session. A report was prepared by the Secretary-General on activities directed towards the recognition and exercise of political rights of women based on information received from non-governmental organizations. Supplementary reports were also prepared concerning information relating to the status of women in Trust and in Non-Self-Governing Territories.

In addition, the Secretary-General prepared a publication entitled *The Convention on the Political Rights of Women: History and Commentary,* containing an outline of the historical background of the Convention and a commentary on its provisions, as well as annexes giving the text of the Convention, the list of States which have signed, ratified or acceded to it, the list and text reservations made together with the objections made to these reservations, and the list of countries where women may vote in all elections on equal terms with men.

At its tenth session, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to include in future annual memoranda on the political rights of women an additional table of countries showing the eligibility of women for election. The Commission noted with satisfaction that four more countries—Colombia, Ethiopia, Honduras and Peru—had accorded to women equal suffrage rights with men.

During the year under review, Japan and Lebanon ratified the Convention on the Political Rights of Women. As of 15 June 1956, twenty-three States had either ratified or acceded to the Convention and it had been signed by forty States.

(*f*) Equal pay for equal work

The Commission's deep concern with the question of equal pay for equal work was expressed at its tenth session. The Secretary-General prepared a report on methods used in campaigns for equal pay for equal work and on the present status of the application of the principle in various countries, based on information obtained from non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. The Commission also received a report prepared by the ILO on equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value, containing information on the application of ILO Convention No. 100 and Recommendation No. 90 on this subject, which showed that one additional State had ratified the Convention, bringing the total number of ratifications to ten. The Commission was informed that Argentina, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics would presently ratify ILO Convention No. 100.

The Commission invited the Secretary-General to prepare a report for its eleventh session based on additional information obtained from non-governmental organizations in consultative status concerning practical methods for the implementation of equal pay, with particular reference to collective bargaining agreements.

The Secretary-General was also invited to prepare, in consultation with the ILO, a draft of a pamphlet concerning the various methods used for the implementation of the principle of equal pay, as well as on current progress in this field, if possible for consideration by the Commission at its eleventh session.

(*g*) Technical assistance in relation to the status of women

The Secretary-General prepared three reports for the tenth session of the Commission on the Status of Women concerning technical assistance in relation to the status of women. A memorandum on technical assistance comprised a summary of selected projects which have resulted directly or indirectly in improving the status of women and a selected list of materials which will be useful to experts working in technical assistance projects through which the status of women may be improved. A progress report on technical assistance programmes was also submitted to the Commission, as well as a report on advisory services in the field of human rights, which outlined the scope of General Assembly resolution 926 (X). By this resolution the Assembly established a broad programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, consolidating three previous separate programmes, one of which was that relating to the promotion and safe-guarding of the rights of women (resolution 729 (VIII)).

The Commission expressed great interest in the possibilities of the new programme, which authorizes assistance in the form of advisory services of experts, fellowships and scholarships as well as seminars. The Secretary-General was requested to explore during the current year, in consultation with Governments and the specialized agencies, the possibility of holding regional seminars to assist women who have recently acquired political rights, or do not yet fully exercise them, in developing their understanding of civic responsibilities and increasing their participation in the public life of their countries.

The Secretary-General was also requested to circulate his summary of selected projects affecting the status of women to Governments and to the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations with consultative status so that they may become aware of the wide range of possibilities through which improvement may be sought in the status of women. He was further requested to supplement the summary by adding new data

on projects concerning the status of women either directly or indirectly, and to submit this supplementary report to the Commission at its eleventh session.

(*h*) Other questions relating to the status of women

At its tenth session, the Commission on the Status of Women also discussed the question of participation of women in the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. The representative of the Secretary-General reiterated the substance of statements made at previous sessions of the Commission, noting that, as increasing numbers of women were appointed to responsible positions in national administrations, this increase could be expected to result as a natural sequence of events in the appointment of more women to senior posts in the Secretariat. The representative of the Secretary-General also drew the Commission's attention to the suggestion made by the Secretary-General at the Commission's eighth session that future representations on this matter could be channelled through the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly as the appropriate body to which the Secretary-General reported on all matters of personnel administration.

The Commission at its tenth session also included in its programme of future work the question of fiscal legislation, and requested the Secretary-General to prepare a preliminary study of tax legislation applicable to married women who work, based on information obtained from non-governmental organizations and on replies already received from Governments to the questionnaire on the legal status and treatment of women.

12. Narcotic drugs

The machinery of international narcotics control has continued to function smoothly during the past year in respect of licit production of and transactions in these substances. Any review of the situation, however, must give rise to grave concern; the continued volume of the illicit traffic, despite the wholehearted co-operation of the Governments mainly concerned on both the national and international level, and the extent of drug addiction, which numbers its victims by the millions, show that there can be no relaxation of the control system and that every effort must be made both to combat and curtail the activities of criminals engaged in this traffic, and to expand existing provisions for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts. As a consequence of the growing awareness of Governments of these dangers and the fuller information, especially of a statistical character, which they have furnished under the recently revised form of annual reports, the Secretary-General was able to lay particular emphasis on this situation in preparing the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for its eleventh session.

The transfer of the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the Secretariat to the European Office of the United Nations in Geneva has allowed all the organs of the United Nations and of the World Health Organization concerned with narcotics control to co-operate even more closely than heretofore, while a system of liaison allows Headquarters to be kept constantly in contact with progress and developments.

Several specific problems have held the attention of the United Nations for the past years. One encouraging development deserves particular notice. The Government of Iran, one of the world's largest producers of opium, realizing the extent of addiction to that drug and its disastrous consequences to the population of the country, has passed a law banning all cultivation of the opium poppy in its territory.

Another question which has received much attention is that of diacetylmorphine. The Secretary-General prepared an analytical study on diacetylmorphine—the manufactured drug which has the greatest addiction-producing liability of all the opium alkaloids—showing its manufacture, import and export and use, as well as policy declarations and laws relating to it which had been made available to him from Governments. Although there is not yet universal agreement on the dispensability of this drug, the majority of countries have adopted a policy of prohibition.

Another problem has been that of the coca leaf, which is abused by millions of inhabitants of South America. The setting up of a government monopoly in Peru, the largest producer of coca leaf, to control the cultivation and production of the coca leaf and to manufacture cocaine, and the programme undertaken by that Government to raise the living standards in the Cuzco and Puna regions where the coca-leaf chewing problem is particularly grave, may be counted as encouraging steps forward.

(*a*) Multilateral treaties on narcotic drugs

The Secretary-General has received the following ratifications, acceptances, accessions and declarations:

Convention signed at Geneva on 26 June 1936 for the Suppression of the Illicit Traffic in Dangerous Drugs as amended by the Protocol signed at Lake Success, New York, on 11 December 1946

Japan ratified with declaration on 7 September 1955;

Luxembourg acceded on 28 June 1955.

Protocol signed at Lake Success, New York, on 11 December 1946 amending the Agreements, Conventions and Protocols on Narcotic Drugs concluded at The Hague on 23 January 1912, at Geneva on 11 February 1925, 19 February 1925 and 13 July 1931, at Bangkok on 27 November 1931 and at Geneva on 26 June 1936

Spain became a Party on 26 September 1955;

Hungary became a Party on 16 December 1955.

Protocol signed at Paris on 19 November 1948 bringing under International Control Drugs outside the Scope of the Convention of 13 July 1931 for Limiting the Manufacture and Regulating the Distribution of Narcotics Drugs, as amended by the Protocol signed at Lake Success, New York, on 11 December 1946

Spain became a Party on 27 October 1955.

Protocol signed at New York on 23 June 1953 for Limiting and Regulating the Cultivation of the Poppy Plant, the Production of, International and Wholesale Trade in and Use of Opium

The Philippines ratified on 1 June 1955;

Luxembourg acceded on 28 June 1955;

Ecuador ratified on 17 August 1955;

Monaco ratified on 12 April 1956;

Guatemala acceded on 29 May 1956.

(*b*) Implementation of treaties and international control

(i) *National laws and regulations*

In order to make the international control of narcotic drugs fully effective, it is necessary for the States Parties to the various international treaties to be constantly kept aware of new developments in other countries. One means of achieving this exchange of information is provided under article 21 of the 1931 Convention, whereby Governments must communicate promptly through the Secretary-General texts of their national laws and regulations relating to narcotic drugs. In the past year the Secretary-General has circulated 128 of these legislative texts. Most of these texts were analyzed in the *Annual Summary of Laws and Regulations relating to the Control of Narcotic Drugs* for 1954. Several countries (Afghanistan, Canada, Italy, Japan and the Philippines) furnished consolidated texts of their national legislation.

As in previous years, a number of new synthetic narcotic drugs were brought under control under the provisions of the 1948 Protocol. Some legislative texts included strict measures for the licensing of the cultivation of the opium poppy, i.e., in the case of Afghanistan, India, Italy, Japan and Pakistan.

Extensive powers have been invested in national authorities in some countries regarding internal trade in narcotic drugs and more Governments have adopted a system of special prescription forms for narcotic drugs.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its eleventh session, cognizant of its obligation to assist in limiting documentation, decided that it could dispense with the publication of the *Annual Summary of Laws and Regulations*. It therefore resolved to ask the Economic and Social Council to propose to the Secretary-General a modified scheme of work, which would consist of the preparation and circulation to Governments of an annual cumulative multi-purpose index; a summary annual tabulation of changes in the scope of control for the Commission; and, if the need arose, the preparation of summaries or studies on particular aspects of international control, as well as a quinquennial summary of legislative texts.

(ii) *Annual reports*

Under the provisions of the 1931 Convention, the Secretary-General has received annual reports from Governments on the implementation of the international treaties on narcotic drugs.

Annual reports were summarized in the *Summary of Annual Reports* prepared by the Secretary-General relating to sixty-one States and sixty-one territories.

In connexion with the functioning of the multilateral narcotic treaties, the Secretary-General communicated with a number of Governments requesting clarifications or additional information with respect to certain legislation, texts or annual reports.

(iii) *Scope of control*

Five new synthetic drugs have been placed under international control, using the machinery provided by the 1948 Protocol. The Secretary-General communicated to Governments the following decisions regarding control:

(1) That the drugs: 1,3-dimethyl-4-phenyl-4-propionoxyhexamethyleneimine; 3-diethylamino-1,1-di(2'-thienyl)-1-butene (proposed international non-proprietary name: diethylthiambutene); 3-hydroxy-N-phenethylmorphinan; 4-morpholino-2,2-diphenyl ethyl butyrate; and all of their respective salts should fall under the régime laid down in the 1931 Convention for the drugs specified under article 1, paragraph 2, group I, of that Convention; and

(2) That the drug: 4-dimethylamino-1,2-diphenyl-3-methyl-2-propionoxybutane and its salts should fall under the régime laid down for the drugs specified in article 1, paragraph 2, group II, of that Convention.

In order to aid Governments, control agencies and health services, and in accordance with the treaty provisions, the Secretary-General prepared a list of (1) national authorities empowered to issue import certificates and export authorizations; (2) firms authorized to manufacture drugs; and (3) basic narcotic drugs coming under the international treaties.

The Secretary-General has been informed by the Director-General of WHO of the adoption of an amended procedure for the selection of international non-proprietary names for pharmaceutical preparations. The proliferation of trade names for these substances has been a source of confusion to national enforcement officials and a possible hindrance to the strict enforcement of control especially over new synthetic drugs. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its eleventh session, requested the Secretariat to explore, in consultation with the international organizations concerned, the possibility of evolving an alternative or supplementary system of designating new narcotic drugs more simply and speedily than at present.

The Secretary-General has continued his studies and research projects and has consulted with other interested bodies where common problems have been presented. Among these the Secretary-General, acting in accordance with decisions of the Commission, made proposals to the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union in view of the forthcoming revision of the postal treaties in 1957. The purpose of the proposals was to ensure that the provisions of the postal treaties covering "narcotic drugs" apply to all drugs falling under international narcotics control. Close contacts have also been maintained with the secretariat of the International Criminal Police Commission.

(*c*) Illicit traffic

The unremitting struggle against the illicit traffic waged by the organs of the United Nations has continued during the period under review. The primary responsibility for action against illicit traffickers rests upon national administrations. However, since the very early days of international efforts in the field of narcotic drugs, it has been recognized that the illicit traffic is of world-wide scope with international ramifications and that international co-operation is vital in the struggle against it. The exchange of information relating to illicit traffic is an important aspect of this co-operation. Such exchange takes place directly between national administrations and through the intermediary of the Secretary-General, pursuant to the provisions of the 1931 Convention. During the period 1 January to 31 December

1955, the Secretary-General received 607 seizure reports, covering a total of 1,587 individual seizures in respect of 23 States and 13 territories. Since 1 January 1956, 148 additional reports covering 731 seizures have been received. These reports were circulated by the Secretary-General in the form of monthly summaries of reports of illicit transactions and seizures, together with lists of persons, places and merchant ships involved in the illicit traffic. Two lists of merchant seafarers and members of civil air crews who were convicted of narcotic offences on or after 1 Janauary 1953, and two reports on seizures involving the use of mails, which reports were communicated to UPU, were also circulated.

The annual review of the illicit traffic by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs is another important aspect of international co-operation. In this connexion, Governments were requested by the Secretary-General to communicate in advance copies of the chapter on illicit traffic of their annual reports for 1955 dealing with the implementation of the international treaties. Some sixty-eight such chapters were received and made available for consideration by the Commission. Taking into account the most recent official information, the Secretary-General prepared a review of the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs during 1955, which analyzed the traffic by main drugs and by regions, and also dealt with some general problems. This review, together with reports received from other official sources, was considered by the Committee on Illicit Traffic, which commenced its work before the Commission's eleventh session and held a total of eleven meetings. The attention of the Committee and the Commission was drawn to the fact that opium and its derivatives, in particular morphine and diacetylmorphine, continued to be by far the most important drugs seized in the internal and international illicit traffic. As regards the latter, the tendency commented upon by the Commission last year for conversion into morphine and diacetylmorphine to take place nearer the source of the cultivation of the opium, appeared to be increasing. Illicit traffic in cannabis continued unabated in most parts of the world; however, the traffic in a great many cases was of a domestic rather than an international character. The presence of synthetic drugs, although in very small quantities, was noticed in the illicit traffic.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Economic and Social Council have from time to time urged Governments to co-operate with one another directly and with all concerned. The Secretary-General was represented at the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth annual assemblies of the International Criminal Police Commission and during the year there has been an exchange of information with that organization relating to the illicit traffic. Reports were also received from the Permanent Anti-Narcotics Bureau of the League of Arab States. Representatives of both these organizations participated in the work of the Commission during its eleventh session.

(*d*) Proposed single convention on narcotic drugs

The major task of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs is the elaboration of a single treaty for the international control of narcotic drugs which will contain the whole multilateral treaty law at present laid down in nine separate international instruments. The Secretary-General, in accordance with the directives given to him by the Commission at its tenth session, prepared a consolidated second draft of the proposed single convention, taking into account all the decisions made by the Commission at its previous six sessions.

The Secretary-General also invited all Member States of the United Nations and non-member States Parties to at least one of the narcotics treaties to transmit their views on the provisions to be incorporated in the single convention concerning (1) the procedure for amending the Convention; and (2) reservations. Thirty-four States have furnished information to the Secretary-General.

An article on "The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs" was published in volume VII, No. 1, of the *Bulletin on Narcotics*.

(*e*) Scientific research on opium

The United Nations Narcotics Laboratory is now established in the European Office of the United Nations in Geneva. The Laboratory is equipped with the necessary scientific apparatus to undertake determinations of the geographic origin of opium samples by various methods, including: (1) physical and chemical characteristics of opium and alkaloid content of the samples; (2) spectrographic and spectrophotometric ash analysis; and (3) electrophoresis and chromatography.

The Secretary-General informed Governments in countries where opium is produced, or where the illicit traffic in that drug is a major problem, of an offer made by the Government of Canada to provide training facilities and instruction for qualified candidates in the application of methods for determining the origin of opium by chemical and physical means. The training provided is designed to enable the Governments of these countries to enforce more effectively the provisions of the international conventions and the recommendations of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for the suppression of illicit traffic in opium. The fellowships provide for six months to one year's training for qualified chemists.

Under the terms of the resolutions establishing the research programme the Secretary-General has been directed to ask Governments for, or to receive, opium samples for three distinct purposes:

(1) Samples to be used to establish standard criteria for determining the origin of opium from different regions of the world. The Commission, at its tenth session, pointed out that these analyses should be carried out on opium samples furnished and authenticated by the Government of the country of origin as opium produced in that country. The Secretary-General has received such samples from Burma, China, Greece, India, Iran, Japan, Korea, Laos, Pakistan, Turkey, Viet-Nam and Yugoslavia.

(2) Samples of important seizures in the illicit traffic for general research purposes have been received from Australia, Egypt, Germany, France, Jordan, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Portugal, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Pakistan and Viet-Nam.

(3) Samples sent by Governments making the seizure for determination of their origin in the United Nations Narcotics Laboratory. Two Governments, France and Germany, have sent samples for this purpose.

The Secretary-General has continued to distribute samples received under (1) and (2) to the contributing scientists.

The Secretary-General also addressed a request to thirty scientists in sixteen countries asking their views on the status and reliability of the scientific methods used to determine the origin of opium. Of the twenty-six replies received, the majority thought that a high degree of reliability had already been attained. Other scientists did not hold this opinion and considered that more research was necessary and more authenticated samples should be provided before the laboratory methods could be used in practice. At its eleventh session, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to convene a seminar of not more than fourteen scientists to propose a future programme and suggest how the Secretary-General may best implement his work in this field.

Eight studies on methods of determination of the origin of opium have been issued during the past year; three by the Secretariat and five by contributing scientists. Thirteen articles on scientific research on narcotics have been published in the *Bulletin on Narcotics*.

(*f*) Synthetic narcotic drugs

The problems involved in the increasing production for trade of synthetic narcotic drugs have continued to be debated with animation in the organs of the United Nations. The therapeutic and addiction-producing properties of synthetic narcotics considered by themselves, as well as in relation to natural narcotics, have an important bearing on the type of control which should be applied to them.

With this in view a series of studies has been undertaken by WHO, in consultation with the United Nations, on the various relationships between synthetic drugs with morphine-like effect and natural narcotics and their clinical effects on the patient.

The third study in this series entitled *Synthetic Substances with Morphine-Like Effect: Relationship between Analgesic Action and Addiction Liability with a Discussion of the Chemical Structure of Addiction-Producing Substances* was published in the spring of 1956. One of the interesting facts emerging from this study is that the parallelism between the order of intensity of analgesic action and the production of physical dependence may indicate a relationship between these two properties but, at the same time, the exceptions suggest the possibility that the two properties are independent. This gives ground for the hope that a compound will be found which has morphine-like analgesic effect but is not addiction-producing. The fourth study in the series will deal with the clinical aspects of synthetic and natural substances with morphine-like effect and is to be issued late in 1956 or in 1957.

(*g*) Cannabis

The series of factual surveys on various aspects of the cannabis problem has been continued and surveys on Angola, the French Zone of Morocco and India have been issued, bringing the total number of such studies to ten. Three draft surveys on Italy, Mozambique and Pakistan have been sent to the respective Governments for comment.

Governments of countries where the cannabis plant is grown for industrial purposes are urged by the United Nations to lend their support to any research to develop a resin-free strain of the plant. The Secretary-General invited the twenty-eight Governments concerned to furnish information on this matter, and twenty-one have now done so. According to this information, research on one or more aspects of the problem is being carried out or contemplated in fourteen countries, as follows: Chile, the Democratic Republic of Germany, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America.

(*h*) Drug addiction

As more knowledge is gained about the world situation regarding drug addiction, the complexities of the problem become more and more apparent. In addition to the moral and physical degradation of the addict, his addiction also has far-reaching social and economic consequences, and Governments are becoming increasingly aware of these implications. Information furnished to the Secretary-General by the annual reports of Governments, by laws and regulations, by national inquiries on the subject and by scientific studies, show that the problem is receiving increasing attention. Centres to treat opium addicts have been opened in several countries; in the Far East their initial success is encouraging. Special hospital facilities for disintoxication and treatment are being contemplated in many other countries, and the importance of psychiatric and rehabilitative services to help the addicts' social reintegration has been proved in practice both in the USSR and in the United States. The need for the fullest possible information on the subject has been recognized by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which requested the Secretary-General to prepare basic documentation to assist it in its deliberation at its twelfth session.

Thirteen studies or articles on problems connected with drug addiction, made available to the Secretary-General by Governments, have been communicated to members of the Commission, and several articles in the *Bulletin on Narcotics* were also devoted to various aspects of addiction.

(*i*) Technical assistance for narcotics control

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided at its eleventh session to propose to the Economic and Social Council that technical assistance should be made available in the field of narcotics control on a wide basis. The Secretary-General is preparing studies to assist the Council in making the relevant decisions. The Commission also requested the Secretary-General to investigate the possibilities of receiving support for his programme from foundations and universities and other non-governmental organizations.

13. Social questions

(*a*) Social policy

Duing the period under review, it has been possible to observe a continuation of the general trend in technical assistance in the social field. Requests received from Governments have reflected in a more marked

degree a growing interest in, and need for, advice with regard to questions of over-all social policy, organization and administration, including such matters as population, community development and town and physical planning.

Efforts have been made to relate training programmes to the work undertaken by the expert advisers to Governments; fellowship and scholarship programmes in the fields mentioned have also shown a gradual expansion and have been supplemented by an increased number of regional study tours for government officials.

The Economic and Social Council, at its twentieth session, considered the first *International Survey of Programmes of Social Development* and the recommendations of the Social Commission thereon. As a result of the Council's action, the second report on the world social situation will, in addition to placing emphasis on the changes which have occurred since the publication of the *Preliminary Report on the World Social Situation*, give special attention to the problems of peoples undergoing rapid transition, especially through urbanization. In co-operation with the interested specialized agencies, the Secretariat has undertaken the necessary research and is preparing the report for publication late in 1956.

The Council, at the same time, requested the Secretary-General to prepare for its twenty-second session a report on the extent to which the priorities and programmes set forth in its resolution 496 (XVI) on the programme of concerted practical action in the social field have been taken into account and implemented by the United Nations and specialized agencies. This report has been prepared in co-operation with the agencies, and points up the actions which have been taken to implement the priorities established in the resolution and the problems confronting the Organization and the agencies in certain areas of their work in the social field.

Consideration of the problem of urbanization, which will receive emphasis in the second report on the world social situation, has been the subject of inter-agency consultations with a view to developing a long-range plan for concerted action; the question will be considered at the meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Inter-Agency Meeting on International Social Programmes to be held in the summer of 1956. Also, in co-operation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations will sponsor a seminar on urbanization in the ECAFE region, which will be held in Bangkok in August 1956; it is expected that this seminar will be the forerunner of similar ones to be held in Latin America and the Middle East. Thus, the problem of urbanization which is of particular concern to under-developed areas, will receive the attention of the members of the United Nations family and will be considered by their governing bodies.

(*b*) Population

The year under review has seen continued implementation of the programme of work on population matters established by the Population Commission at its eighth session and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council. As in the past, work has been oriented primarily to the problems of economic and social development of under-developed countries. One of the major accomplishments of the year was the holding of two seminars on population problems in Asia and the Far East (Bandung) and in Latin America (Rio de Janeiro). The seminars focused attention on the population problems of the regions as related to problems of economic development, on the training of demographers through the establishment of regional training centres, and on means of collecting additional information and improving available data for purposes of research and analysis.

A number of studies and reports have been published with the object of assisting Governments to determine the statistical and demographic facts required for the preparation of programmes of economic and social action. During the year, the United Nations published a study on the future population of Latin America for the period 1950-1980; an analysis of mortality rates by sex and age groups in under-developed areas was also published under the title *Sex and Age Patterns of Mortality*.

The Population Commission proposed, and the Council endorsed the proposal that consideration should be given to the establishment, in the principal under-developed regions of the world, of permanent relations with competent institutions which could become centres for demographic studies of particular concern to the regions and for training personnel who would be called upon to carry out these studies on a regional basis. It has been determined, especially in the light of discussions at the regional seminars, that the best method of carrying out the proposal of the Commission is the establishment in each region of a centre for demographic research and training. Plans have been made for the establishment of regional centres for this purpose, and arrangements are in hand for setting up a centre in Latin America. The Economic Commission for Latin America has endorsed the proposal and has suggested that it should be carried out in co-operation with the Governments of all the Latin American countries. Negotiations looking to the setting up of a similar centre in the Far East are also under way.

(*c*) Community development

The advisory and technical assistance services of the United Nations in the field of community development have been increasingly utilized by Governments during the period under review. There has been a continued expansion of programmes, particularly in aspects such as agricultural extension, fundamental education, rural health development, and co-operatives and small industries, in which the specialized agencies are active. Although Economic and Social Council resolution 496 (XVI), in establishing a set of priorities in the social field, stressed the "establishment of demonstration centres" as a means of promoting community development, recent experience indicates that such projects are only one method of promoting international action in this important activity, and that they are not necessarily the most effective method unless great care is taken to ensure the practicability of multiplying local projects based on the demonstration.

Resolution 496 (XVI) also called for regional meetings of governmental officials to consider problems of community development. In a number of cases these regional activities have taken the form of study tours; thus, during the year under review, a group of officials from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Yemen visited Burma, India and Pakistan; an Eastern Mediterranean

tour brought together officials from Greece, Iran, Israel, Turkey and Yugoslavia who visited Yugoslavia, Greece and Israel; Afghan officials visited Ceylon and India. A joint United Nations and specialized agencies survey mission also went to Africa; at the invitation of the Governments of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, Belgium and Liberia, the mission visited Uganda, Ruanda Urundi, the Ivory Coast, Liberia and the Gold Coast.

Following submission to the Social Commission and to the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General revised and published a study, entitled *Social Progress through Community Development,* which outlines tentatively a set of principles of community development. Wide distribution has been given to the publication and, in accordance with the Council's request, Governments have been invited to furnish their observations on the principles so that consideration may be given to the extent to which they need to be supplemented or modified. The publication of this study represents a very useful contribution to the literature on the subject of community development. In addition, the report of the *United Nations Regional Community Development Conference for South and South-East Asia,* held in the Philippines in 1954 under Council resolution 496 (XVI), was published; also a study of the *Methods and Techniques of Community Development in the United Kingdom Dependent and Trust Territories.* Work has also continued on the assembling and selection of material for a special study kit intended to assist in the training of community leaders; in an effort to obtain as comprehensive an approach as possible to the problem, the Secretary-General communicated with approximately three hundred directors of training institutions throughout the world in order to secure information concerning their projects. Progress has been made on the preparation of a guidebook which will indicate simple practical devices for better community living; it will deal with the simple construction aspects of community development, such as sealed wells, improved hand tools, water purifying devices, etc.

The United Nations participated, in co-operation with the interested specialized agencies, in an evaluation of the activities of the Centro Regional de Educación Fundamental para la América Latina at Patzcuaro, Mexico, and of the Arab States Fundamental Education Centre at Sirs-el-Layyan, Egypt. The recommendations of the two evaluations missions were considered by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination at its twenty-second session, and the Working Group on Community Development, at its meeting late in June 1956, will consider ways and means for implementing the recommendations. The Working Group will also try to arrive at a satisfactory understanding of the concept of community development and related aspects.

(*d*) Housing and town and country planning

During the year under review, in the United Nations programme relating to housing, building and planning special attention has been paid to housing for low-income groups, to the training of administrative and technical staff, the financing of housing and community programmes and the reduction of building costs. A mission of experts on housing finance, representing the United Nations, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Organization of American States, visited a number of Latin American countries and its report will be a basic document for discussion by a regional meeting of Latin American experts.

The reduction of building costs through the application of reseach in building materials and techniques is a dominant factor in the provision of housing for low-income groups. The Organization's programme in this respect has been directed towards the provision of direct assistance to regional housing research centres; thus, assistance has been given to centres in Latin America through the Inter-American Housing Centre at Bogotá, and in Asia and the Far East in connexion with the centres being established at Bandung and New Delhi.

Co-ordination of housing and town and country planning activities, which is based on Council resolution 279 B (X), has entailed the development of close ties with the regional economic commissions, the interested specialized agencies, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations. An informal arrangement has been made between the United Nations and the Organization of American States for the co-ordination of housing and planning activities in Latin America; the activities of the Inter-Secretariat Working Party on Housing and Building Materials in Asia and the Far East, which has now been set up as an intergovernmental working party of the ECAFE Committee on Industry and Trade, are reported in chapter II, A, 1 (i.e., report on ECAFE).

In early 1956 the United Nations, in co-operation with several agencies, convened in Puerto Rico a seminar on training for town and country planning, which discussed methods of training specialists in many disciplines to work together in guiding the physical growth of communities, and to render direct assistance in physical planning, in the development of building materials and in the financing of housing, emergency housing and housing design.

The bulletin *Housing, Building and Planning* (formerly called *Housing and Town and Country Planning*) continues to be published; each issue deals with a subject connected with the work programme. Issue No. 9 deals with international activities in housing, building and planning in Asia and the Far East, and a future issue will deal with housing through non-profit organizations.

(*e*) Social welfare

Co-operation with the United Nations Children's Fund has continued to be a major aspect of the United Nations family and child welfare programme. Emphasis has been placed on the family as the essential unit within which preventive and protective measures for the welfare of children must be centered; the development and extension of special services have been encouraged as an integral part of the broad social welfare measures designed to strengthen family life, including measures for the maintenance of income.

(i) *Training of social workers*

The *Second International Survey on Training for Social Work* was published in 1955 and, as a first step towards the preparation of a further report for the eleventh session of the Social Commission on the training of social work personnel, the Secretary-General has convened a group of selected experts to meet in the summer of 1956 to discuss a paper dealing mainly with the aims and content of social work training pro-

grammes at different educational levels, the relationship between training programmes for professional social workers and auxiliary workers, and in-service training for employed workers. Attention will also be given to the practical contributions social work might make to the training programmes for professional and auxiliary workers in related subjects such as health, education and community development. In 1955 a group of experts met in Amsterdam under the auspices of the United Nations and WHO to advise on the content common to training programmes for health and social services, and on the personnel required to meet the health and welfare needs of families.

(ii) *Family and child welfare*

On the recommendation of the Social Commission at its tenth session, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 595 F (XX) on the maintenance of family levels of living. The Council authorized the Secretary-General to convene, in joint sponsorship with the ILO and in co-operation with the other specialized agencies concerned, an expert working group to assist in the examination of technical problems involved in the formulation of a co-ordinated policy regarding family levels of living. The group, composed of seven experts with broad experience in the formulation of social welfare policies and social planning, and at the same time representatives of countries at varying stages of economic development and with varying social structures, will meet in September 1956. The experts will give their advice on seven topics listed in their terms of reference and will concentrate attention on problems concerning social security, social insurance, social assistance and related social services for family and child welfare, with special reference to underdeveloped countries.

In accordance with a request by the Social Commission at its eighth session, the Secretariat has published a study dealing with *Assistance to the Needy in Less-Developed Areas*. Work has also progressed in connexion with the convening in the summer of 1956 of the fourth meeting of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Long-Range Activities for Children; the major subject to be considered will be the organization and administration of children's services.

The first issue of the *International Social Service Review* was devoted to family and child welfare; it includes an account of the activities of the United Nations in the field of family and child welfare during the past ten years, a report on day care services for children and home help services, and a comprehensive bibliography which replaces the previously published *Social Welfare Information Series*.

(iii) *Rehabilitation of the handicapped*

The needs of the handicapped have been met mainly by the provision of direct assistance to Governments in order to strengthen national rehabilitation programmes in countries which are in the process of developing more comprehensive services for the handicapped, and by assisting less-developed countries to initiate basic services for the disabled as part of a general programme of health, education and welfare. Co-operation with non-governmental organizations has continued to develop, particularly in the field of technical assistance, and some of the major projects have been undertaken jointly with the non-governmental organizations. With the discontinuance in 1955 of the Working Group on the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped, the co-ordination of international activities continues to be assured through *ad hoc* meetings, convened by the United Nations when necessary, to discuss important matters of co-operation and programme planning. This arrangement also retains the established working relationship between the United Nations and the Conference of World Organizations interested in the Handicapped, which held its fourth meeting in March 1956; representatives of twenty-four non-governmental organizations attended the two-day meeting.

The United Nations also participated in the study group on the problems of children with impaired hearing which WHO convened in October 1955. In view of plans to devote the second issue of the *International Social Service Review* to the subject of rehabilitation of the handicapped, articles on "The Co-ordinated International Programme for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped"; "Trends and Developments in the Field of Rehabilitation since the Second World War"; "Social Work in Rehabilitation"; "The Process of Urbanization and its Effects on the Situation of the Handicapped"; "The Problem of Blindness in the Far East"; and "Recent Trends in the Development of Special Appliances for the Blind and Partially Sighted"; as well as a comprehensive bibliography on rehabilitation of the handicapped were prepared during the past year.

(iv) *Social aspects of migration*

During the period under review, co-operation with non-governmental organizations dealing with social services for migrants has continued, with special emphasis on projects that are likely to facilitate the solution of various social problems of migration. A study on the social welfare services to migrants rendered by non-governmental organizations was published, based on the replies of the over one hundred organizations to a questionnaire. The study describes the activities of forty-six organizations in rendering various types of services to migrants generally and to special groups, such as children, refugees, those in professional categories, etc.

In accordance with a decision of the Economic and Social Council at its nineteenth session, a Conference of Plenipotentiaries to complete the drafting of and to sign a Convention on the Recovery Abroad of Claims for Maintenance was convened in May 1956. This Conference represents the culmination of a long period of international interest in this social problem, dating back to the League of Nations (see also chapter IV, 13).

(v) *Social defence*

The convening of the First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held in Geneva in August and September 1955, was the highlight of the year's activities in the field of social defence. The large attendance (512 participants) and their wide geographical distribution (sixty-one countries and territories) is evidence of the great international interest which was felt in the meeting. The experts attending the Congress considered the question of standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners, the selection and training of personnel for penal and correctional institutions, open penal and correctional institutions, prison labour and the prevention of juvenile delinquency. The resolutions

and recommendations adopted by the Congress have been provisionally published by the United Nations, and the report of the Congress will be submitted to the Social Commission at its eleventh session.

The Congress afforded an opportunity for the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee of Experts on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders to meet for the fourth time in Geneva in August 1955. In addition to approving the organizational plans for the Congress, it made recommendations concerning criminal statistics, probation, treatment of types of offenders against whom society needs particular protection, and short-term imprisonment.

In the field of prevention of crime, the Secretariat's report on the prevention of juvenile delinquency was submitted as one of the basic documents to the Congress and was published in the *International Review of Criminal Policy*, Nos. 7-8. No. 9 of the *Review* contains, *inter alia*, a study relating to juvenile delinquency in Australia and New Zealand. The United Nations also published a report on *The Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency in Selected European Countries* which was prepared on behalf of the Secretariat by the Institute for the Study and Treatment of Delinquency in London. A world-wide survey of policy and practice with respect to the principal aspects of prison labour was published under the title of *Prison Labour*.

As in the past, the Secretary-General has received periodic reports from the national correspondents in the field of social defence, who now number ninety-three and have been appointed by forty Governments. The Congress provided an opportunity to strengthen co-operation with these correspondents.

As approved by the Social Commission and the Economic and Social Council, the separate publication of governmental reports on the subject of traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others has been discontinued. In its stead, selected information from these reports is presented in the *International Review of Criminal Policy*. The problems which arise are being kept under study, particularly in connexion with field projects and technical assistance programmes aimed at social planning and development, including those relating to community organization and development, the status of women, and the strengthening of family life.

Several more instruments of accession to or ratifications of the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, approved by the General Assembly on 2 December 1949 (resolution 317 (IV)), were deposited with the Secretary-General during the period under review. The number of accessions to and ratifications of the Convention now totals seventeen.

B. OPERATIONS IN SPECIAL FIELDS

1. Technical assistance activities

(A) Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance for Economic Development

(*a*) Finances of the programme

It was foreseen in the previous report that the funds available for the Expanded Programme during the calendar year 1955 would be larger than in previous years and, in the event, the increase proved to be considerable. By the end of the year, seventy-one Governments had pledged contributions equivalent to $27.9 million to the Special Account, which represented an increase of more than 11 per cent over the pledges made for the previous year; on the basis of these contributions and of the funds remaining in the Account from 1954, the Technical Assistance Board and the organizations participating in the Expanded Programme were able to assume obligations amounting to $25.8 million of which sum $21.3 million represented technical assistance actually delivered to less developed countries and territories throughout the world. By the end of the first quarter of the present year, seventy-three Governments had announced their intentions of making contributions totalling $28.9 million to the Special Account during the year, and it is expected that these contributions will make possible an expenditure of about $32.5 million by the end of 1956, of which some $27 million will represent the cost of field operations.

Despite the increase in pledges for 1955, the administrators of the Programme ran into the same difficulties at the beginning of the year as had been encountered throughout the greater part of 1954. The reason was that by the end of the first quarter of 1955 the pledges made by Governments stood at rather less than half the sum eventually pledged for the year, and by that date the contributions actually paid amounted to less than $3 million or under 11 per cent of the total pledges for the year. This situation forced TAB to restrict its initial earmarkings of funds severely, with the result that the amount of assistance that could be provided during the early months of the year was correspondingly limited. A considerable improvement in the Programme's finances began in April, and for the rest of the year contributions to the Special Account were received at a steadier rate, so that the even flow of technical assistance could be resumed at the planned pace. Nevertheless, funds equivalent to about $5.5 million remained unused by the end of 1955, but this compares favourably with the figure of $8.8 million which had been carried over at the end of 1954.

In contrast with the necessarily modest earmarkings of funds for the first months of 1955, those made in December of that year for the year 1956 were the largest ever made for the beginning of a year; they amounted to $30.2 million which represents over 90 per cent of the total programme for the year which the Committee, on the recommendation of the Board, has approved. The earmarking of a large amount of funds at the very beginning of a year, made possible on this occasion by the fact that the majority of Governments had made firm pledges of their contributions to the Expanded Programme well in advance, enables the participating organizations to put their projects of assistance into effect during the early months with every confidence that the tempo of operations will not subsequently have to be slowed down because of a shortage of funds. During the present year, the participating organizations were enabled to incur obligations amounting to $17.4

million by the end of the first quarter, and the full year should see the delivery of a greater proportion of the assistance planned in the approved programme than has ever been achieved before.

During 1955, 3 million was added to the Working Capital and Reserve Fund, and it is intended to increase the Fund by a like amount during the present year, so as to bring it up to the level of $12 million provisionally set by the Technical Assistance Committee, with the approval of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly, in 1954.

When giving its approval in 1954 to TAC's plan for the country programming of technical assistance activities, which was briefly described in last year's report, the Council included in resolution 542 B II (XVIII) a provision for the allocation to the Executive Chairman of TAB each financial year, beginning in 1956, of a sum amounting to 5 per cent of the estimated resources for the year, to meet any urgent needs for assistance that might arise after the year's programme had been drawn up and approved, and which could not therefore be covered in the ordinary way. For the year 1956 the Committee has set the Contingency Fund at $1.5 million, and by the end of May the Executive Chairman had already authorized the use of about $1 million from it.

(*b*) Operations

The greater availability of funds in 1955 made possible a striking increase in the volume of technical assistance actually provided, with a rise of 29 per cent in the direct costs of all field operations as compared with the previous year. Assistance was given directly to 101 countries and territories, four more than in 1954. There were some 1,400 experts in the field at the end of 1955, out of the total of 2,004 who served the Expanded Programme for different periods during the course of the year. More than 2,700 fellowships and other similar awards for study and training were granted, and the third form in which assistance is provided under the Programme—equipment and supplies furnished to support the activities of experts—accounted for an expenditure equivalent to $2.4 million.

The provision of experts accounted for 67 per cent of the total cost of field operations, the award of fellowships for 22 per cent and equipment and supplies for 11 per cent. The corresponding distribution in the previous year was 74 per cent, 17 per cent and 9 per cent, and the tendencies for the amount spent on experts to decrease and on fellowships to increase were continued from 1953. Although the financial uncertainties of the past have certainly affected the distribution to some extent, it is probably not without significance as an indication of the relative usefulness of the three types of assistance to the recipient countries. In this connexion, it is interesting to note that, whereas the number of experts drawn from countries that are themselves receiving assistance has remained fairly constant at about one in four, the number of fellows who studied in those countries rose sharply in 1955 to more than one in every three; and a preliminary conclusion would seem to be that Governments are finding that the training of their nationals abroad under conditions which approximate fairly closely to those that they will face on return to their home countries is one of the most valuable advantages offered by the Expanded Programme.

Although the percentage of the total assistance supplied under the Programme that is given to any one country or territory inevitably varies somewhat from year to year, depending on the Government's needs and the size of individual projects to which it attaches particular importance, the ratio of the amounts of assistance furnished in the different regions of the world remained virtually the same in 1955 as in 1954. There was, likewise, no great change in the pattern of activities under the Expanded Programme, the scope of which remained extraordinarily wide and ranged from the development of industrial technology to the eradication of malaria; from the irrigation of desert lands to the extension of telecommunications; from the training of ground staff for civil aviation to the fight against illiteracy; from studies of wind power to the preparation of labour legislation. Such trends as are discernible from the technical assistance provided in 1955 point to the growth of the operational type of project, fully integrated with the Government's general plans for economic development, on which a number of experts on different but related subjects work together as a team for several years. The emphasis on the training of the nationals of the less developed countries to carry on work begun by international experts, which was mentioned in the last report, was also maintained. The importance of this type of assistance can hardly be over-estimated, and it is significant that a quarter of all the funds spent on field operations during the year was used for training courses of one kind or another.

(*c*) Administration of the programme

During 1955, the assistance to be provided in 1956 was planned according to the procedure approved by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 542 B II (XVIII). The experimental introduction of this country programming in the previous year had given valuable experience, and such difficulties as were encountered in 1955 were only minor in character. With some modifications in the timing of the various stages, the same procedure is at present being followed for planning the 1957 programme; and the stages themselves can now be fitted into a general pattern which it is expected will be largely repeated each year. The planning of the assistance to be delivered in any one calendar year starts some fourteen months in advance when the Technical Assistance Board, meeting late in October or early November, decides on a preliminary target for the size of the programme for the second ensuing year, based on its estimate at that time of the funds likely to be available. The next stage is the determination for planning purposes of target figures representing the magnitude of the assistance to be furnished to each country and territory, as well as of similar targets of regional and inter-regional projects, a process which is completed by the Board when it meets in mid-March. The individual target figures are then communicated to the respective Governments through the field offices of TAB. With the target figure to guide it, each Government has the three-month period from April to June in which to develop with the participating organizations a programme of assistance for the following year. The field offices give such help with the planning as Governments may require and, by the first week in July, transmit each Government's programme request to the secretariat of TAB and to the participating organizations. During the ensuing six weeks, the participating organizations make the detailed plans and cost estimates required for all the programmes that Governments have requested, submitting the complete data to the secretariat during the second half of August. From this

information, the secretariat compiles a draft of the overall programme, forwarding it to the participating organizations for study during the second half of September. Early in October, TAB reviews this programme, after making any necessary adjustments in the light of its estimate of the funds that will be available for executing the programme in the ensuing year. Finally, the Technical Assistance Committee reviews and approves the programme and authorizes the allocation of funds to the participating organizations.

It will be appreciated that the introduction of country programming has added considerably to the responsibilities of the Board's field offices, of which there are now twenty-six throughout the world covering activities under the Expanded Programme in forty-five countries and territories. The main task of the field offices continues to be the furnishing of administrative support to the participating organizations by providing as much service as possible to experts, and in the majority of cases this includes the payment to them of their field allowances. As a further step to strengthen the links between TAB and Governments receiving assistance, an experiment has been started during the present year in which selected experts already in the field will serve as correspondents of the Board in those countries and territories in which it does not maintain a field office. Four correspondents have so far been designated to act as a point of reference between the Executive Chairman and Governments, and it is intended to use them as a channel of communication for matters connected with the general administration of the Expanded Programme in the countries concerned.

The Technical Assistance Committee has been looking into measures for evaluating the effectiveness of the Expanded Programme for some time, and in July 1955 a working group which it had set up in the previous year met to study a review of the activities undertaken in six selected countries between 1951 and 1954. This review, together with a review of the fellowships provided under the Expanded Programme during the same period, was prepared by TAB; but the working group was of the opinion that the comments on the review of the six Governments concerned should be obtained before it went further in the matter. It also drafted a questionnaire designed to elicit the opinions of other Governments on the effectiveness of the Programme. The Committee subsequently noted the views of its working group and decided that the questionnaire should be sent to those Governments to which Resident Representatives of the Board had been accredited. The working group met again early in April 1956, when it had before it the replies of Governments to its questionnaire, and prepared a report which will go to TAC in July. The working group came to the conclusion that the assistance provided under the Expanded Programme has been beneficial to the process of economic growth and development and that the types of assistance furnished have proved useful, although it is not practicable to isolate the impact of technical assistance on the economic development of the assisted countries or to measure it in precise statistical terms. The group was of the opinion that the major responsibility for evaluating technical assistance must lie with the Governments receiving aid, and it has suggested to the Committee that evaluation should become a part of the day-to-day planning and execution of the Expanded Programme on which the Board should comment in its annual report to the Committee.

In April 1955, TAB was asked by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to review the experience gained in the first five years of operation of the Expanded Programme and to consider its future development. The Technical Assistance Committee added to this request in the following July by asking the Board to incorporate in its study concrete recommendations for future action; and the Board has accordingly prepared a report entitled "A Forward Look" which will be before the Committee in July 1956, together with comments by ACC. It is very clear to the Board that the needs of the less developed countries for technical assistance far exceed the financial though not the technical resources of the Expanded Programme; and it is of the opinion that the Programme must continue to grow if it is to maintain the reputation it has already won for itself as a valuable international method of helping Governments to develop their economic and human resources.

(B) United Nations Programme of Technical Assistance

In addition to its role in the Expanded Programme, the United Nations has responsibilities for technical assistance laid on it by various General Assembly resolutions, notably 200 (III), 418 (V) and 723 (VIII), dealing with economic development, social welfare and public administration respectively. The work carried out under these resolutions (usually referred to as "the United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Assistance"), although differing in some respects from that of the Expanded Programme, overlaps sufficiently for it to be both economical and convenient to administer both programmes as if they were parts of a single whole. A consolidated report on all technical assistance rendered by the United Nations was presented to the Economic and Social Council at its twentieth session and was noted with appreciation in resolution 584 (XX).

Also at its twentieth session, the Council stressed the important part that technical assistance could play in trade, community development, the training of welfare personnel and housing. To this list, the Council at its twenty-first session added water resource development and cartography. It is of course for the recipient Governments themselves to allot priorities and, while the Secretary-General can draw their attention to the views of the Council, only requests received from them can give effect to the recommendations contained in these resolutions.

The General Assembly, in resolution 924 (X), requested the Secretary-General to continue to give all possible favourable consideration to requests of Libya for technical assistance. During the year, the United Nations has conducted projects in that country in economic development, census and general statistics, public administration, accountancy training and (in collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization) meteorology.

It has often been emphasized that technical assistance depends for its vitality not so much on actions taken at Headquarters as on a multitude of activities in the benefiting countries. Nevertheless, its subject-matter is frequently the same as that of research activities in the economic and social field carried out by the Secretariat at Headquarters, and the two forms of work should clearly enrich each other. Every attempt is made to

achieve this, and a particular example during the year under review was stressed in the debates that led to the adoption of Economic and Social Council resolution 597 A (XXI) dealing with industrialization. It was emphasized that the experience of technical assistance experts in industrial projects should be increasingly utilized in the preparation of studies which, in turn, will help other experts to carry out their assignments more effectively.

The general concept of technical assistance is now so much a part of international life that it is readily taken as a pattern for programmes in fields other than (though overlapping) economic and social development. Of this there have been two examples during the past year, the approval by the General Assembly of the establishment of advisory services in the field of human rights and the proposal by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to set up similar services in narcotics control. Here again, it is the intention of the Secretary-General to use existing administrative facilities in the interests of economy.

The Economic and Social Council at its twentieth session recommended, in resolution 585 (XX), a significant increase in the funds for providing technical assistance in social welfare. This view was endorsed by the Assembly and given effect in the budget appropriations for 1956, where $1 million was set aside for the purpose of carrying out the intentions of Assembly resolution 418 (V).

In discussing this, the Second Committee at the tenth session of the General Assembly commented that there was also need for a moderate increase of the United Nations budget for technical assistance in the field of public administration, and the Economic and Social Council will be asked to consider this at its forthcoming twenty-second session. There has certainly been a marked growth over the last three years in requests for experts, fellowships and seminars in public administration, particularly in the training of civil servants at all levels. There is also a clear and increasing need for supporting research and substantive international co-operation in this field.

The Secretary-General is anxious to deploy staff in such a way that there is maximum collaboration between field activities and research work. One instance of this has already been noted in connexion with industrialization. Another is the sending of some of the staff members concerned with administering technical assistance projects to Mexico City and Santiago, where they will be in more immediate contact with recipient Governments and where, in addition, they will be able to draw directly on the resources available through their colleagues on the staff of the Economic Commission for Latin America. This has been done on an experimental basis (with the approval of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly) and, if it proves successful, the decentralization may be extended to other regions.

The main methods of rendering technical assistance continue to be expert missions, the award of fellowships, and group projects such as study tours, training institutes and conferences. Details of these need not be given here, since they are the subject of separate reports made to the Council and to the Assembly.

Of experts, it may be said that they are increasingly taking on tasks that go beyond the provision of advice, that they are teaching by example rather than by precept. It might have been expected that for an expert employed by an international agency to exercise executive functions within a national administration would give rise to difficulties associated with conflicting lines of responsibility, but this fear has not been realized. Indeed, many unusual co-operative arrangements have worked smoothly and effectively in practice—experts have been recruited by the United Nations but paid from national funds, employed by Governments but reimbursed by the United Nations, and employed by the United Nations but paid for by voluntary agencies.

Fellowships are being associated more and more with other projects, though many countries continue to value the individual award as a means of training. Experimental use has been made during the year of the educational possibilities inherent in the Secretariat itself by awarding fellowships in economic development to candidates who will be attached to the staff of the Economic Commission for Europe; it is hoped to extend this to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Most of the training institutes noted in earlier reports have continued during the year under review. It has, however, been possible to withdraw United Nations aid from the Inter-American Centre of Biostatistics, an example of a criterion by which success in technical assistance is often measured, that is, persisting vitality after the withdrawal of aid itself.

Other notable projects during the year were a study tour in France, both the German Republics, the United Kingdom and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, undertaken by mining engineers and geologists from the ECAFE region; two population seminars, one in Brazil and the other in Indonesia; a statistical seminar for the Arab States; an African survey mission in community development; the setting up with the International Bank of an Institute of Scientific and Industrial Research in Ceylon; a Latin American seminar in the training and administration of personnel held in Uruguay; and a workshop on budget classification in Bangkok for the ECAFE region.

The United Nations has again acted as the administrative arm for the technical assistance work of the International Telecommunication Union, the Universal Postal Union and the World Meteorological Organization. This has resulted in considerable economies and may perhaps serve as a model of inter-agency co-operation, should any new organization embark upon technical assistance.

2. United Nations Children's Fund

Substantial progress continues to be made by the United Nations Children's Fund in campaigns against malaria, tuberculosis, yaws, trachoma and leprosy; in the extension of basic rural maternal and child welfare services; and in child nutrition. UNICEF aid, with imported supplies and equipment, is currently being furnished to ninety-two countries and territories for some 280 programmes. In 1955, these programmes benefited 32,500,000 children and mothers, and in 1956 the goal is 39,500,000.

The decision in 1955 by the Executive Board of UNICEF to join with the World Health Organization in offering to help Governments begin full-scale malaria eradication campaigns has required a considerable increase in UNICEF expenditures in proportion as Governments respond to both the public health and economic implications of eradication. For the period 1957-1960, UNICEF allocations for malaria eradica-

tion are expected to rise to an average of approximately $10 million a year. While this is a modest figure, judged in terms of the millions of lives it will affect, it is a large figure in relation to the resources of UNICEF. Considerably increased generosity of support is required if the Fund is to continue with its essential work in malaria eradication and, at the same time, is to press with imagination its responsibilities in other strategic types of programmes designed to meet the growing readiness of Governments, particularly those of underdeveloped areas, to make full use of enlarged opportunities, born of experience and past successses, for using UNICEF aid.

3. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

(a) Implementation of the United Nations Refugee Fund programme

The United Nations Refugee Fund programme for permanent solutions to the problem of refugees, and emergency aid to the neediest among them, authorized by General Assembly resolution 832 (IX) was initiated in June 1955. In the course of 1955, governmental contributions to the Fund, for which a target of $4,200,000 had been set for that year, were received in the amount of $2,653,697, while approximately $955,000 were contributed from non-governmental sources, principally from the national campaign held in the Netherlands.

In accordance with a decision taken by the UNREF Executive Committee at its first session the emphasis was placed on the reduction of the refugee camp population. Consequently, during the first year of operations of the programme, projects for permanent solutions in an amount of $2,812,466 were put into effect in Austria, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece and Italy, where the camp population totalled 84,000 at the beginning of 1955. Pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 832 (IX) considerable supporting contributions towards projects for permanent solutions were made available from Governments and other sources within the above-mentioned countries. It is estimated that approximately 8,700 refugees are benefiting from these projects at present, while the refugee camp population has decreased to about 70,000.

Projects for emergency aid in the amount of $115,000 were put into effect in China, Egypt, Greece, Iran, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey, benefiting approximately 3,500 refugees.

Furthermore, projects in the amount of $460,702 have been put into effect for the settlement of difficult cases. As a result, permanent care in homes or institutions or otherwise has been assured for an estimated 500 refugees in this category, 263 of whom have been actually settled to date.

The operation on behalf of refugees of European origin from China has been carried on in conjunction with the Inter-governmental Committee for European Migration and assistance was given to over one thousand refugees within the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. During 1955 it was possible to arrange for the resettlement of 547 refugees from China.

In view of the fact that the governmental contributions for 1955 fell $1,546,303 short of the target, the UNREF Executive Committee decided at its second session, held in January 1956, that the unimplemented part of the plan of operations for 1955 should be taken into the revised plan of operations (1956), bringing the combined financial target for governmental contributions for 1956 to $5,946,303.

The Executive Committee considered that this was necessary if the possibility was to remain open of reaching the over-all target of $16 million for governmental contributions during the four years' period of the programme, which was the counterpart to the acceptance given by the countries of residence of full responsibility at the end of the four years' programme for all refugees who came within its scope.

A considerable number of the projects in the revised plan of operations (1956) approved by the Executive Committee at its second session have now been put into effect, many of which are a continuation of projects in the course of implementation.

As of 24 April 1956, governmental contributions for 1956 were anticipated in the amount of $2,529,592. Concern about the financial situation of UNREF and its impact on the reduction of the camp population was voiced by the UNREF Executive Committee at its third session held in May 1956 and, at its request, an addendum will be submitted by the High Commissioner to his report to the General Assembly at its eleventh session dealing with this question.

In a further effort to speed up the implementation of the programme, the Executive Committee in its resolution No. 3, adopted at its third session, urged Governments and voluntary agencies to continue their co-operation with the Office of the High Commissioner in its effort to assist those refugees who have no chance of overseas resettlement and requested the High Commissioner to consult with the Governments of the countries of residence on the additional measures required during the remaining period of the UNREF programme to promote a systematic closure of the camps and at the same time find adequate solutions for their inmates.

(b) Repatriation and resettlement

As a result of efforts made by Governments of the countries of origin to encourage repatriation by sending repatriation missions to the countries of residence of refugees, a few refugees are reported to have returned to their country of origin. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 925 (X), which called upon UNHCR to apply due safeguards in effecting solutions for the problem of refugees, arrangements were made with the Governments of the countries of residence of refugees for a UNHCR representative to be invited to accompany repatriation missions as an impartial observer, to ensure that no undue pressure was exercised on the refugees.

Although resettlement opportunities for refugees, including difficult cases, have slightly increased during the last year, it is becoming evident that a great proportion of the refugees not yet assimilated in their countries of residence do not comply with current immigration criteria and that, if some of these refugees are to benefit from resettlement possibilities, admission criteria must be further liberalized.

An encouraging development during the last year has been the increase of inter-European resettlement, which has enabled several thousands of refugees from the

countries with the heaviest refugee camp population to migrate to countries where they can obtain employment and housing.

(c) Legal aspects of international protection

Since the last annual report of the Secretary-General the following States have ratified the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees which entered into force on 22 April 1954; Ecuador, the Holy See, Iceland and the Netherlands, so that eighteen States are now Parties to the Convention.

The UNHCR has, in the exercise of its function of international protection, continued its efforts to improve the legal position of refugees. In accordance with article 8 of the statute, these efforts were concerned in particular with the promotion and ratification of international conventions affecting the situation of refugees. The UNHCR thus participated in two conferences on the status of refugee seamen held at The Hague under the auspices of the Netherlands Government, where agreement in principle was reached between eight European maritime States on the conclusion of an agreement for the regularization of the status of refugee seamen.

In several instances the UNHCR obtained the inclusion in agreements of a general nature of special provisions to safeguard the rights of refugees.

C. QUESTIONS OF CO-ORDINATION AND RELATIONS WITH THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

At its twentieth session, the Council departed from its previous practice of considering under separate items the reports of each of the specialized agencies, the reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and other aspects of co-ordination among the United Nations and the specialized agencies. In accordance with a decision made at its eighteenth session, the Council instead undertook a general review of the development and co-ordination of the economic, social and human rights programmes and activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies as a whole. Co-ordination was not dealt with as a separate subject, but rather in the context of major activities.

As reported last year, the Secretary-General, after consultation with the executive heads of the specialized agencies, and in accordance with the Council's expressed wish, submitted a written statement to serve as an introduction to this item. He supplemented this statement by an oral statement to the Council in which he called attention to two important aspects of co-ordination not mentioned in the documents submitted. First, there was the relationship between the various economic and social goals that countries were pursuing under the auspices of the United Nations: higher standards of living, full employment, conditions of economic and social progress and development, and the solution of international economic and social problems, to name a few of the objectives set out in the Charter. In the international programmes of the United Nations, as in the formulation of national policies, situations were bound to arise in which some of those objectives competed, or might even appear to conflict. To underestimate the importance of national objectives being pursued within a framework of economic equilibrium and international harmony would imply a failure to learn the real lessons of the history of the last twenyt-five years. It was the Council's responsibility to promote the synthesis of views and the reconciliation of policies by which that process might be made possible.

Secondly, there was the question of priorities. In earlier years the Council had considered the matter in very broad terms, particularly in 1952, when it had drawn up the list of priority programmes of the United Nations and specialized agencies; in more recent years it had dealt with it more narrowly, in terms of its review of the programmes of the year or years to come drawn up by the commissions, by special organs such as the United Nations Children's Fund and by the specialized agencies.

The plans for streamlining the work of the Secretariat in the economic and social fields, to which the Council had given its general approval in 1954, also fell under priorities. Since then, administrative and budgetary arrangements based on the plan had been adopted by the General Assembly, and the Secretary-General had endeavoured to carry out the reforms involved, guided by his declared hope that they would in all respects tend to strengthen the real impact of the United Nations work.

The previous year's survey had been directly concerned only with the work and organization of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at Headquarters. Further studies, not yet completed, led generally towards the conclusion that there should be closer integration and greater utilization of common resources in the execution of their responsibilities between the staff assigned to the Department at Headquarters and the regional economic commissions. It was felt also that in the field of technical assistance a more rational utilization of resources available to the Department at Headquarters, the regional commissions and the Technical Assistance Administration would materially benefit the Governments which were being assisted through the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance.

The debate which followed the Secretary-General's oral statement and the resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council were reported upon by the Council to the General Assembly at its tenth session.

In accordance with the request made by the Council at its twenty-first session, the Secretary-General's written introductory statement to this item for the twenty-second session devoted special attention to developments over the last ten years. It referred to the remarkable expansion in the scope of international action under the Council's purview and, more generally, to the contribution of the United Nations family to the fulfilment of the objectives of Article 55 of the Charter.

In the first place, there had been welcome progress towards universality in the programmes and the mem-

bership of the various international organizations. In the second place, important new institutions affecting the welfare and the life itself of millions had been created, either as parts of the United Nations itself or as specialized agencies, while other organizations which were created earlier than the United Nations had also become specialized agencies.

International action had developed new methods and forms, as witness the "sharing of skills" in the programme of technical assistance for economic development, and it had extended to new fields, including the peaceful uses of atomic energy, the provision of supplies and equipment for programmes benefiting children, the use and conservation of water, and community development. It had become more systematic and comprehensive and forward-looking. Nor had it been confined to the promotion of material and social welfare: it had also been consciously directed towards the promotion of human dignity and equality through the United Nations programme of human rights.

If, therefore, international economic and social action after the war was built largely on the basis laid by the League of Nations, not only its scale and range, but its methods and approaches had undergone far-reaching changes; the responsibilities of the international organs were far more "operational" and there were greater resources to enable these responsibilities to be carried out. However difficult it was to appraise the precise influence of international action on economic and social progress since the second World War, it was certain that such action had proved itself effective over a wide field and in many countries.

The deliberate decentralization of international economic and social action reflected in Articles 57 and 63 of the Charter had raised the problem of how to ensure co-ordination among the United Nations and the various autonomous agencies brought into relationship with it. One of the Council's major concerns had been to establish appropriate co-ordinating machinery and procedures; it had also devoted careful consideration itself, year by year, in plenary session, in its Co-ordination, Technical Assistance and other Committees, to the promotion of co-ordination and co-operation among the United Nations organizations in specific fields, and in respect of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance as well as the regular programmes, and in respect of regional as well as Headquarters activities. While it would be wrong to conceal or minimize the difficulties of the task of ensuring good co-ordination among dynamic and independent organizations with wide, and in some areas, overlapping interests, important positive results had been achieved, as reflected in the recent reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.

Turning from his ten-year survey, the Secretary-General referred to some of the major problems and tasks with which the United Nations itself or in association with the specialized agencies, had been closely concerned in the last twelve months, such as the peaceful uses of atomic energy; the financing of economic development; the annual reporting to the Council on world economic conditions; the promotion of industrialization and productivity, water utilization and conservation and community development; the problems of urbanization and demographic problems; and international measures for further advancing the cause of human rights.

He described the peaceful uses of atomic energy as a subject eminently suited for exploration on an international basis and welcomed the fact that in the early years of a great development of science the groundwork had already been laid for a responsible international approach to its practical applications. As reported by ACC, a sub-committee of that body had been set up under the Secretary-General's chairmanship to help co-ordinate the work of the United Nations organizations, several of which were already dealing with aspects of the problem within their respective fields; and emphasis had rightly been laid on the necessity for the closest co-operation between existing United Nations organizations and the proposed international atomic energy agency, the establishment of which would doubtless lead to a considerable extension of international co-operation in the whole field.

The Secretary-General viewed the process of economic development as one requiring balanced and co-ordinated action in a variety of fields, that is, one of organic growth of a total society. This implied co-ordination in the fullest and deepest sense—a continuous search for balanced and integrated action and a recognition of the necessity for accompanying action in one field with supporting and complementary action in other fields. This necessity had been made into a virtue in the case of what was known today as "community development". The Secretary-General also emphasized the importance of demographic data and the need for more adequate quantitative information, particularly with regard to less-developed countries, so that their economic and social policies could be based on the fullest possible statistical information.

The evolution of United Nations work in several of the fields mentioned above illustrated the trend noted last year towards the formulation and carrying out, under the leadership of the United Nations itself, of broad programmes, aspects of which fell within the specialized competence of the sister agencies. While this trend was a welcome and important one, it had resulted in such an increase in the extent of consultation which the United Nations Secretariat was called upon to undertake with the specialized agencies that a serious strain had been placed on the existing arrangements for co-ordination.

In connexion with certain priorities of an institutional character, the Secretary-General welcomed the early prospect of the establishment of an international finance corporation, which should contribute notably to the process of industrialization in under-developed countries, and he referred to remarks he had made last year to the Council to the effect that the promotion of international trade was one of the Council's priority programmes and that central review and co-ordination of work in this, as in other fields of international endeavour, was essential.

With regard to the Council's over-riding programme priority, namely, the development of under-developed countries, the Secretary-General referred to the difficulties created by the absence of proper administrative machinery to handle the problems of economic and social development, and to his suggestion for the possible development of a special international service to assist Governments. In the meantime, he hoped that the building up of public administration—which ACC had brought forward in 1950 as the main immediate objective of the technical assistance programme—might claim

the attention it deserved in national and international plans for economic development. He also commended to the Council's attention the report of the Technical Assistance Board entitled *A Forward Look* and ACC's comments on it with which he was in general agreement.

As regards the United Nations Secretariat itself, the Secretary-General referred to his proposals to the tenth session of the General Assembly designed to ensure an improved use of the combined staff resources of TAA and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, including the secretariats of the regional economic commissions. He stressed that those proposals were intended to secure for the technical assistance programme the benefit of the special—and indeed unique—knowledge of the economic problems of the countries of the region accumulated by the staff of the regional commissions. But such an arrangement did not alter the responsibility of the New York Headquarters for the administrative and substantive aspects of the programme.

At the same time, the duty stations of four social affairs officers had been changed from Headquarters to Bangkok, Santiago and Beirut to strengthen direct advisory services to Governments in the social field and to accomplish a better integration of the economic and social development programmes of the United Nations. Recent experience in planning the work programmes of these officers confirmed his view that a reasonable degree of "regionalization" of the social affairs programme can be achieved without diminishing Headquarters control.

Referring to his earlier statement that a gratifying degree of universality had been achieved in the programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, the Secretary-General reminded the Council that Africa had an immense need for international economic and social assistance to which too little attention had as yet been paid. While some excellent work had already been done by the United Nations, some of the specialized agencies and UNICEF, this represented little more than the beginnings of effective international action by the United Nations organizations, and concerted efforts on a far greater scale than heretofore were imperative.

The Middle East was also an area which at the present time was not being adequately served in the economic and social fields by the United Nations, although considerable aid had been given by UNICEF and under the technical assistance programme.

The claims of the whole so-called under-developed world to rapidly improved standards of life and a removal of inequalities, and their demand for help in creating the conditions that make this possible were insistent, and it was in the interest of the whole world that they should be met generously. One great lesson of the past ten years was that they could in large measure be met, and met efficiently and effectively, through international action. In respect of international technical assistance activities alone, as TAB had brought out, resources many times the size of those now available were called for. The Secretary-General hoped that it might now be possible to consider the problem of international aid from a broader angle and to reappraise the whole scale of the action that should be undertaken through the United Nations organizations in favour of the economic and social development of the under-developed countries.

D. CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

The non-governmental organizations in consultative relationship with the Economic and Social Council now number 289. Of these, ten are in category A, 110 in category B and 169 are on the register of the Secretary-General.

During the year under review, non-governmental organizations have submitted fifty-nine written statements which have been circulated as documents of the Council or its commissions and other subsidiary bodies. In addition, organizations have been heard on various occasions by the Council's Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and by the Council, its commissions and other subsidiary bodies (see also chapter IV).

The Secretary-General has administered the consultative arrangements established by the Council under resolution 288 B (X) by means of consultations, correspondence, assistance to organizations in connexion with hearings before the Council and its subsidiary bodies and the submission of documents, and by sending representatives to a number of the principal conferences of the organizations. Material has been prepared on the various organizations applying for consultative status and has assisted in the preparation of the 1955-1956 edition of the *Yearbook of International Organizations*.

Chapter III

QUESTIONS CONCERNING TRUSTEESHIP AND NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

1. Operation of the International Trusteeship System

(a) General

The desire of the inhabitants of a number of the Trust Territories for advanced measures towards the attainment of self-government, accompanied generally by further recognition of their capacity to play a greater part in the management of their affairs, has again provided the principal matters of interest and attention in the operation of the International Trusteeship System during the period under review.

The now firmly established machinery of international supervision which the system provides over the administration and advancement of the twenty million people of the eleven Trust Territories has functioned normally throughout the year. It consists essentially of the exercise by the United Nations of the three main avenues of supervision envisaged by the Charter: the regular examination of annual reports by the Administering Authorities on the administration of the Territories; the examination of petitions relating to the Territories, for the most part emanating from the indigenous inhabitants; and the dispatch of periodic visiting missions to report directly on developments, events and problems.

The application of these procedures has brought attention to bear on some notable questions, and in one case gave rise to an event unprecedented in the history of the Trusteeship System, although consciously related to the provisions of Article 76 of the Charter. This was the decision of the General Assembly in 1955, with the concurrence, and indeed at the invitation, of the Administering Authority concerned, to choose a plebiscite as the most practicable means of determining the wishes of the people of Togoland under British administration as to their future, and in particular as to the possibility of their being united with the adjoining Gold Coast on its imminent attainment of independence. The plebiscite, conducted by the Administering Authority, but supervised at all stages by the United Nations, took place on 9 May 1956. The results are to be assessed by the Assembly at its forthcoming eleventh session.

In the case of the other and larger of the two Togolands, that under French administration, where institutional reforms took place in 1955, the Administering Authority has declared its belief that this Territory is also approaching the attainment of the objectives laid down by the Charter, and its intention to consult the population as to its future. It volunteered to submit proposals at an early date.

Elsewhere in West Africa, the Cameroons under British administration—its northern and southern parts already brought closer, although in different ways, to internal autonomy in association with the constitutional advance of Nigeria—has the prospect of taking part, through its popularly chosen representatives, in a conference to be held in the autumn of 1956 at which the next steps towards self-government will be considered.

On the other side of Africa, Somaliland under Italian administration has made a further advance in point of both time and constitutional development towards the independence to be granted to it by 1960. The election early this year of the first Legislative Assembly of the Territory has been followed by proposals for the establishment of a cabinet system of government.

The process of evolving plans for a self-governing State of Western Samoa, through consultation of the representatives of the people and discussions between their leaders and the Administering Authority, has continued during the period. The proposed time-table for the main stages in the establishment of a parliamentary and cabinet system envisages a large devolution of powers by 1960.

If these were the more prominent features of the tenth year of the International Trusteeship System, political progress in other Trust Territories, as well as the economic, social and educational advancement and problems of all the peoples under trusteeship, have also been reported upon and examined.

(b) Sessions of the Trusteeship Council and the General Assembly

During the period under review, the Trusteeship Council completed on 22 July 1955 its sixteenth session, at which it had examined, in particular, conditions in all four of the Trust Territories in the Pacific area and in Somaliland. It also held, between 24 October and 15 December, its fifth special session, primarily in order to consider the special report of the 1955 Visiting Mission on the Togoland unification problem and the future of Togoland under British administration, and also to make arrangements for a visiting mission to the Trust Territories in the Pacific in the first half of 1956.

The general operation of the Trusteeship System then came under annual review at the tenth session of the General Assembly. This was followed by the seventeenth session of the Council, lasting from 7 February to 6 April 1956, at which the greater part of the Council's time was taken up in the examination of conditions in African Trust Territories: Tanganyika, Ruanda-

Urundi, the two Cameroons and Togoland under French administration. In the case of the last three of these Territories the Council had before it, in addition to the annual reports and other information supplied by the Administering Authorities concerned, the reports of the two visiting missions which it had dispatched in the previous year, one to the two Cameroons and the other to the Togolands.

At its eighteenth session, which opened on 7 June 1956 and was in progress at the end of the period covered by the present report, the Council has again turned its attention principally to the Pacific Territories, on which it has before it reports from the recently-returned Visiting Mission, and to Somaliland. Important additional items on its agenda provide for the receipt of the report on the plebiscite held in Togoland under British administration and the consideration of any further developments in respect of Togoland under French administration; and also for the examination of actual conditions in Togoland under British administration.

At all three of the regular sessions of the Council much time was devoted, especially through the Council's Standing Committee on Petitions, to dealing with the increasingly voluminous flow of requests, complaints and other expressions of opinion sent to the United Nations by letter and telegram, principally by people in the African Trust Territories, and in particular those in West Africa and Somaliland. Apart from communications taken into account in the examination of annual reports and petitions concerning general questions, the Council at its sixteenth session applied its established procedure of examination to 154 petitions, and at its seventeenth session to 358. The agenda of the eighteenth session contains 431 petitions to which the procedure is applicable.

Events connected with disorders in the Cameroons under French administration and their aftermath gave rise to a large proportion of the petitions received during the year under review and, in addition, to a massive influx of some 33,000 communications, which posed a special problem for the Council. The great majority of these proved to have been addressed initially to the Visiting Mission; the Council found it necessary to appoint at its seventeenth session a committee of two members to study them. At its eighteenth session, it decided that it would take those dealing with general questions into account during its next examination of conditions in the Territory; in the case of some 3,000 communications relating directly to the incidents the Council reaffirmed a resolution previously adopted on the matter; and it decided that 506 communications should be circulated in appropriate form as petitions.

On the other hand, the 1955 Visiting Mission to the Togolands had received an even larger number of communications—some 200,000 in all—but had taken the great majority of these, as being essentially expressions of opinion on the future of the two Territories, into account in preparing its reports.

The Council gave oral hearings to representatives of two Somaliland political parties during its sixteenth session, but rejected a request made on behalf of a party which had been declared dissolved in the Cameroons under French administration. At its seventeenth session, it rejected further applications on behalf of this party and two other organizations similarly dissolved; it granted a hearing to another organization in the same Territory but, at the request of the petitioners, the hearing was postponed until the eighteenth session. The Fourth Committee of the General Assembly at the tenth session, for its part, had given hearings to spokesmen of the principal political parties in the Togolands and in Somaliland. It had also granted applications made in the name of the dissolved parties in the Cameroons, but the spokesmen failed to arrive.

The more important developments in the individual Trust Territories and the action taken by the Council upon them, are summarized in the next section of the present chapter. Questions of a recurring nature and of general application to which the Council has given attention during the period include the periodic review of administrative unions affecting Trust Territories, the progress of the scholarship scheme for Trust Territory students initiated by the General Assembly under resolutions 557 (VI) and 753 (VIII), and the dissemination in the Territories of information concerning the United Nations.

The action taken on trusteeship matters by the General Assembly at its tenth session reflected less concern than in the past with questions relating to the procedures of the Trusteeship Council. The only matter of this nature on which the Assembly adopted a resolution was the question of the attainment by the Trust Territories of the objective of self-government or independence. Previous resolutions on this subject—558 (VI), 752 (VIII) and 858 (IX)—had envisaged the Council including in each of its annual reports a separate section describing the measures taken or contemplated by the Administering Authority and, if available, their estimates of the periods of time required for both the ultimate achievement of that objective and specified steps towards it, together with the conclusions and recommendations of the Council. After having included a separate section on the subject in its 1953-1954 report, the Council, on 19 July 1955, adopted resolution 1254 (XVI) outlining a procedure by which, in the future, each of its drafting committees on the annual reports concerned would prepare appropriate draft conclusions and recommendations. This procedure was to apply, however, only from the seventeenth session onward; and in the meantime the Council decided not to include a separate section in the report which it was then preparing for submission to the General Assembly at its tenth session. In resolution 946 (X) the latter, noting this omission with regret, requested the Council to ensure that its new procedure would enable it to comply fully with the relevant previous resolutions of the Assembly and, accordingly, to give the subject a separate place in its future reports.

At its seventeenth session (resolution 1369 (XVII)), the Council subsequently amplified the new procedure, principally by giving the drafting committees instructions to incorporate in the draft territorial chapters of the Council's report information, conclusions and recommendations particularly specified in General Assembly resolution 752 (VIII); and, at the same time, by requesting the Secretary-General to prepare, in the light of these arrangements, a separate section of the Council's report containing the information indicated in the Assembly's resolutions and the conclusions and recommendations of the Council on it.

In applying this procedure to the Trust Territories examined at the seventeenth session, the Council approved changes in the arrangement of the relevant material in each chapter in order to relate it more clearly

to the questions specified by the General Assembly. In addition, it adopted in each case a wholly new section dealing with the establishment of intermediate target dates and final time-limits for the attainment of self-government or independence. The nature of its conclusions and recommendations in this respect is indicated in the summaries given below of conditions in the Trust Territories. At the time of writing of the present report, the Council had still to take up again the question of the separate section to be included in its report to the Assembly.

Further action taken by the Assembly at its tenth session on the problems of the Togolands and the Somaliland frontier is also included in the notes on territorial conditions presented below.

2. Conditions in Trust Territories

(A) Trust Territories in East Africa

(*a*) Somaliland under Italian administration

The further advance of Somaliland towards the goal of independence not later than 1960 is under review by the Trusteeship Council at its eighteenth session. The past several months have comprised a period noteworthy for the establishment at the territorial level of new representative legislative and executive organs, giving the more than one-and-a-quarter million people of the Territory the means of playing a greater part in the management of their own affairs.

These developments accord generally with the recommendations adopted and hopes expressed by the Council at previous sessions. They also recall the opinion expressed by the United Nations Advisory Council in the Territory that the political institutions should be established well before the agreed time—eighteen months prior to the end of the trusteeship period—when plans for the transfer of the functions of government must be submitted to the Trusteeship Council.

The Territory's new Legislative Assembly consists of sixty members elected indirectly by the Somali population and ten elected by the non-Somali communities, and it possesses, according to the Administering Authority, all the powers proper to a legislature except in matters which, under the Trusteeship Agreement, are the responsibility of the Administering Authority. Thus the Administrator retains the right to sanction legislation; but an assurance has been given that the veto will be used only in exceptional circumstances.

The election of the legislature was followed quickly by steps to establish a Government of Somalia, consisting of a Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister. It was explained that this body would ensure the internal administration of the Territory, while the Administering Authority would continue to take full responsibility for matters relating to international affairs and defence, Italian personnel employed in the Territory, and economic planning and foreign trade so long as a monetary contribution continued to be made by the Italian Government.

A sequel to these events was the appearance before the Trusteeship Council at its eighteenth session, as part of the delegation of the Administering Authority, of the first Prime Minister of Somaliland and officers of the new legislature. They included political leaders already familiar to the United Nations in the role of petitioners, the Prime Minister in particular having addressed both the Trusteeship Council and Committees of the General Assembly on occasions dating from the debates concering the future of the former Italian colonies.

Rapid progress has been reported in the "Somalization" of the administrative structure. Anticipated future developments in the political field include the introduction of direct universal adult male suffrage for the renewal of the Legislative Assembly in 1958, and the consultation of that Assembly in the drawing up of the plans for the transfer of powers and, probably, in the preparation of the Constitution of the new State.

The progress of efforts towards a negotiated settlement of the problem of the definite demarcation of the frontier between the Trust Territory and Ethiopia, a subject of periodic recommendation on the part of the Council and the General Assembly, was also reported. At the tenth session of the General Assembly the Fourth Committee had heard further statements on this question by the representatives of the two Governments concerned and also by a Somaliland political spokesman, and the Assembly recommended, in resolution 947 (X), that direct negotiations should be expedited. These negotiations were opened at Addis Ababa in March 1956.

The dominant problem in the economic field remains that of strengthening and diversifying the essentially agricultural and pastoral economy of the country in order both to assure to the citizens of the new State a progressive improvement in standards of living and to provide sufficient local revenues to pay for social and other services and further development. While the Administering Authority has put a development plan into effect and the United States Government has also contributed to a fund for development, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development also sent a survey mission to the Territory during the year, and its report is awaited. Much interest also centres on the possibility of oil being discovered in the Territory in commercial quantities, exploratory drilling having been started during the year.

In the field of social development, the Council has noted in the past the adverse effect of poor health conditions on social and economic progress generally. It observed with satisfaction campaigns undertaken and planned against various diseases and malnutrition, and urged that special emphasis should be placed on the training of Somali medical and health assistants. It also felt that a scientific study should be made of the habits, customs, traditions and ways of life of the nomads who make up a large proportion of the population; the Administering Authority considers, however, that it already has enough knowledge of these matters to permit the elaboration of a programme which would allow the nomads to take a fuller part in the increased productivity of the Territory.

The Council has recommended that efforts to increase school attendance, the number of Somali teachers and, in particular, vocational training should be intensified.

(*b*) Tanganyika

Steady progress in all fields in Tanganyika, the largest of the Trust Territories, was noted with satisfaction by the Trusteeship Council at its seventeenth session. At the same time, the importance of developing among the eight million Africans and the much smaller Asian and European communities a sense of territorial consciousness, and of enabling the Africans in particular

to play their full part in a unified country, was again emphasized. The Council noted with satisfaction that the Administering Authority had pursued a policy directed towards establishing harmonious relationships and effective collaboration between the various communities, and that Africans in general, through recent constitutional reforms, had been given an increased part in the management of public affairs and were also participating in greater measure in other spheres of the life of the Territory. The Council hoped that the Administering Authority would continue this process with all possible speed, to the end that an integrated society would be established in which Africans would play their due part.

Examining the early working of the new Legislative Council established in 1955 with equal representation of the three communities in its minority of non-official members, the Council felt that the reported satisfactory functioning of the organ and the non-racial approach of its members augured well for the next step in constitutional development, namely, the introduction of common-roll elections in certain areas. The Council recalled, however, its previously expressed hope that the retention of separate representation, even on the basis of parity, would be regarded as a transitional phase, and trusted that there would be further increases in African representation so that an elective and representative body, in accordance with the wishes of the people, would be established as soon as feasible. It also welcomed a new procedure under which non-official members of the Territory's Executive Council concentrate their interest on groups of government departments, and hoped that this would lead towards ministerial responsibility and, in this case again, to greater African representation.

The Council expressed satisfaction with further progress in local government reform, including the prospect of elective representation at this level. It looked forward once more to the establishment, as soon as possible, of a system of universal suffrage based on a common roll for both the central and the local government bodies. It also took note of some new legislation controlling various aspects of political activity and expressed the hope, in view of the pronounced increase in political activity among the Africans in particular, that the Administering Authority would continue to take extreme care and caution in applying these measures in order that there might be no suspicion that the free development of political consciousness and organization was being impeded in the Territory.

In the economic field, the Council felt that substantial progress had been achieved. It expressed its continued interest in the development of projects to engage Africans in economic enterprises and in loan moneys being made available to and used by African farmers. It thought that the co-operative movement was one of the most effective means of giving the Africans a greater part in the economic life of the Territory, and welcomed the continuing success of the movement. In the Meru land case, a dispute which had occupied its attention for some years, the Council saw evidence of progress towards a settlement through proposals to lease to the Meru tribe some of the land in the general area of the dispute which had been given up by its recent European occupiers.

Recalling in the social sphere that it had previously recommended that all steps, both through the formation of public opinion and, if necessary, through penal legislation, should be taken to put an end to all forms of racial discrimination in the Territory, the Council expressed pleasure at being informed of progress in the welding of public opinion against racial issues and discrimination. It also appreciated the efforts made by the Administering Authority to improve the status of women by encouraging the development of women's activities, and hoped that these efforts would be continued. Noting an improvement in medical services, it hoped also for continued efforts in this field.

In the educational field, the Council reaffirmed its previous opinion that the continued existence of separate schools for each of the racial groups constituted a barrier to the development of a unified and integrated society and again urged the Administering Authority progressively to establish inter-racial schools and to unify the educational system. Within the framework of the present system, the Council welcomed the fact that enrollment in African primary schools had exceeded the targets set in the ten-year plan which had been started in 1947, while drawing attention to the problems of diminishing attendance and of limited opportunities of entry to the middle and secondary schools; and it welcomed the establishment of a trust fund for higher education and the expansion of vocational education.

Dealing with the question of the attainment of self-government or independence in the light of the General Assemby resolutions on the subject, the Council decided to draw the attention of the Assembly to the Administering Authority's objections to any attempt to establish a time-limit for the achievement of the goal, as had been suggested by the Visiting Mission of 1954. At the same time, however, it made recommendations in respect of the General Assembly's further desire to have estimates of the time needed to complete measures intended to create the pre-conditions for the attainment of the objective. Adapting the phraseology of the Visiting Mission on this aspect of the question, the Council commended to the Administering Authority for its consideration the opinion that a more precise statement of the steps by which and the manner in which self-government or independence was to be achieved would give the Trust Territory a stronger sense of purpose and direction in achieving its final goal, and that the drawing up of successive targets for political, economic, social and educational plans and programmes would tend to induce an atmosphere of understanding and confidence in which the Territory would be able to move ahead more rapidly and harmoniously. The Council accordingly recommended to the Administering Authority that it should indicate such successive intermediate targets and dates in the political, economic, social and educational fields as would create conditions for the attainment of self-government or independence.

(c) Ruanda-Urundi

In the densely-settled, hilly Territory of Ruanda-Urundi, where more than four million people live, the Council was satisfied that important further progress had been achieved, and it hoped for additional efforts to bring about the development of the Territory towards the objectives defined by the Charter.

Questions of the status of the African inhabitants and of their political education received further attention. Turning again to the system of registering as "civilized" African persons who wish to submit themselves to European civil jurisdiction, the Council considered that the Administering Authority should take all appropriate

measures to avoid juridically distinct sections or classes being recognized within the population. The Council learned that the territorial advisory body known as the Council of the Vice-Government-General was the subject of proposals for changes in composition, and welcomed the prospect of an increase in the size of the organ and in the proportion of African members, and of a general improvement in representation. It noted with particular satisfaction that it was intended to submit the proposals to the organ itself for discussion, and hoped that the change in composition would lead in due course to the consideration of ways of developing its functions as well. As regards the staffing of the central administration, while noting that the principal means by which the Administering Authority was endeavouring to give Africans an increasingly important share in the management of their affairs was through the evolution of their own institutions, the Council considered that complementary efforts should be made to prepare Africans for responsible posts, and was glad to note that such posts would be open to qualified candidates.

Satisfaction was expressed with the manner in which the newly established indigenous councils had so far functioned; the Trusteeship Council felt confident that through this experience the people would exercise greater control of their own affairs. It welcomed the intention of broadening the basis of representation on these councils and hoped that this would lead to the establishment as soon as possible of a direct electorate adapted to local conditions on the basis of adult suffrage. The political and social separation of the people of the two *pays* of Ruanda and Urundi again engaged the Council's attention and, while it recognized that the ultimate development of their relationship must rest largely with the peoples themselves, it felt confident that the Administering Authority would encourage them to explore the advantages of closer contacts.

Economic development in the Territory again impressed the Council, which at the same time urged the Administering Authority to continue to seek means of meeting the recognized need for diversification and of extending the part played by the African population. Concerned with the problem of sustaining a constantly increasing population in the face of the natural limitations upon large-scale agricultural expansion, it suggested a need for further concentration both on extending the use of improved methods and on developing new cash crops. It also related the population problem to the desirability of developing secondary industries, and noted with interest action under way in this field. Concerning the African and his cattle, the Council, on the one hand, welcomed further efforts to abolish the semi-feudal *ubuhake* system and, on the other, noted with interest the inauguration of pilot projects to study the balanced use of natural resources.

In the field of social development, the achievements of both the Belgian authorities and of the religious missions received further recognition. The continuing use of the curfew and other restrictions on movement over which the Council had previously been concerned led it to take note of an assurance that the representative of the Administering Authority would ask for the re-examination of these matters in consultation with the various councils in the Territory. On labour questions, the Council welcomed the abolition in 1955 of penal servitude for breaches of labour contract, and continued to hope that the Administering Authority would facilitate the development of trade unions. The medical and health services brought praise from the Council, and a particular hope that the education and training of Africans as qualified doctors would retain special attention.

The Council was satisfied that general educational progress had been made and, among new developments, it welcomed a first experiment in lay education and the development in the Belgian Congo of higher education facilities to which students from the Trust Territory would have access. It felt that problems of school inspection and of the fall in primary school attendance after the first or second year's education required continued attention, and also that there should be a generous programme of overseas scholarships.

The Council decided to refer to the General Assembly the position taken by the Administering Authority against the feasibility of establishing a final time-limit for self-government or independence, which had been suggested by the 1954 Visiting Mission. As in the case of Tanganyika, however, it commended the idea of a more precise statement of the steps by which and the manner in which the objective was to be achieved, and also recommended that the Administering Authority should indicate such successive intermediate targets and dates in the political, economic, social and educational fields as would create conditions for attaining the goal.

(B) Trust Territories in West Africa

(*a*) Togoland under British administration

The situation arising, on the one hand, from movements for and against the unification of the Ewe peoples of West Africa and more recently the unification of the two Togolands as a whole, and on the other hand from the rapid advance of the Gold Coast towards independence, developed further during the period under review. In the last few years, the position of Togoland under British administration has tended to take on greater urgency because of the fact that it is administered as an integral part of the Gold Coast, but the interrelationship of its problems with those of Togoland under French administration has continued to be recognized.

After the General Assembly had decided at its ninth session (resolution 860 (IX)) that steps should be taken to ascertain the wishes of the inhabitants of British-administered Togoland, without prejudice to the eventual solution which they might choose, the 1955 Visiting Mission to the Togolands submitted a special report describing and making recommendations on the situation of both of the Trust Territories. The Mission proposed, firstly, a plebiscite in which the people of Togoland under British administration would choose either integration with an independent Gold Coast or separation from the Gold Coast and continuation under trusteeship. If the latter course were chosen by the people of the whole Territory, or either the northern or southern sections of it, their final determination would wait until the political future of Togoland under French administration had been decided. There, too, as soon as further political development permitted and the Administering Authority signified the readiness of the Territory, a consultation, preferably by plebiscite, should be held. Finally, a concluding plebiscite would be carried out in any part of Togoland under British administration which had remained under trusteeship.

The Trusteeship Council decided, at its fifth special session held in November 1955, that the views expressed

by the Visiting Mission provided a useful basis for determining the arrangements to be made to ascertain the wishes of British-administered Togoland, and transmitted the report to the General Assembly. The latter, after its Fourth Committee had again given hearings to representatives of all the principal political groups involved, adopted resolution 944 (X) recommending that the Administering Authority should organize and conduct without delay, under the supervision of the United Nations, a plebiscite in which the people of Togoland under British administration would choose between the alternatives posed by the Mission. For the purpose of supervision it decided to appoint a United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner, to be assisted by observers and staff appointed by the Secretary-General in consultation with him. The Assembly requested the Commissioner to submit a report to the Trusteeship Council, for consideration and transmission to the General Assembly at the latter's eleventh session, in order that the Assembly might, in consultation with the Administering Authority, assess the results and determine the further action to be taken on the attainment of independence by the Gold Coast in the light of all the circumstances.

The plebiscite took place on 9 May 1956 and, at the time of writing, the report of the Plebiscite Commissioner, Mr. Eduardo Espinosa y Prieto of Mexico, was awaited by the Council. The Council also had on the agenda of its eighteenth session the annual report of the Administering Authority for 1954, providing the basis, to be supplemented by more recent information, of its examination of conditions in the Territory and the present participation of its people in the general development of the Gold Coast and in its further political experience in the transitional period before independence.

(*b*) Togoland under French Administration

The relationship of the political future of this Territory, the larger of the two Togolands, with that of Togoland under British administration has been indicated above. In resolution 944 (X), the General Assembly took note of the fact that the Administering Authority already contemplated holding consultations in due course, and endorsed the conclusion of the Visiting Mission that the implementation of contemplated political reforms would play a helpful role in enabling the wishes of the more than one million inhabitants as to their future to be ascertained at an early date by direct and democratic methods. It recommended that the consultation should be conducted, as in the case of the other Togoland, under the supervision of the United Nations; the Council was requested to undertake, at its forthcoming regular session, in consultation with the Administering Authority, a special study of the matter.

At the Council's seventeenth session, the Administering Authority stated that, as a result of the reforms which had been introduced in 1955, the people of the Territory had reached a degree of political maturity which indicated that the objectives of the Trusteeship System were close to achievement and would enable the future status of the Territory to be determined before very long. The Administering Authority was considering the steps to be taken to ascertain the wishes of the inhabitants, and would submit specific proposals to the Council in the near future. The Council accordingly has this question on the agenda of its eighteenth session. At its seventeenth session (resolution 1371 (XVII)), it expressed the hope that the Administering Authority in presenting its views would take into account a number of factors, including the extent to which the objectives of the Charter and the provisions of the Trusteeship Agreement had been achieved and the further measures necessary to attain the desired objectives.

In the meantime, the Council carried out its annual review of conditions in the Territory, having before it the findings of the Visiting Mission as well as the information submitted by the Administering Authority. Examining the effect on the Territory's political development of its assimilation to the Overseas Territories of the French Republic, the Mission observed that no organ of the Territory played an effective part in making laws, that the powers of its local Assembly were limited to the making of rules and regulations and that the French Parliament remained sovereign in all matters. Since this arrangement was not prescribed by the French Constitution in the case of the Trust Territories, the Mission saw no obstacle to the grant of full legislative powers to the local Assembly, and considered that it would be appropriate for the people to begin to participate in the law-making process. While the reforms of 1955—establishing a Government Council and extending the powers of the Assembly—represented a substantial advance, they should be supplemented by other measures if the Territory was to attain self-government and thus be in a position to emerge from its trusteeship status. The Mission envisaged measures which would make the Assembly a legislative body with full budgetary powers, elected by direct universal suffrage, and the Government Council a true cabinet responsible to the Assembly.

After hearing from the Administering Authority a more favourable interpretation of the powers of the territorial organs, the Council noted with satisfaction the augmentation of those powers by the reforms of 1955, and also the statement that the purposes of the Trusteeship System were very close to achievement; at the same time, it expressed the hope that the Administering Authority would shortly introduce further measures with a view to granting to the local Assembly all legislative powers corresponding to the Territory's degree of evolution. It also recommended measures in the near future to make the Assembly a representative body elected by direct universal suffrage and to extend the powers of the Government Council and its responsibility to the Assembly. In the field of local government it welcomed steps taken to improve the status and powers of district and municipal organs. The Council again urged, as it had on several previous occasions, the application of direct and universal adult suffrage to all elections in the Territory. It welcomed steps taken to "Africanize" the civil service. Drawing attention to the observations of the Visiting Mission on some aspects of the question of political freedoms, and noting that freedom of assembly was guaranteed subject only to the requirements of public order, it hoped that measures taken to maintain public order would be such as to afford the fullest possible freedom of assembly to all political parties.

Satisfaction with continued progress in the economic field was expressed by the Council, which hoped that the Administering Authority would continue its present policy of expanding the financial assistance given to the Territory. It also praised the efforts being made to improve agriculture and communications and the enactment of new legislation to safeguard customary rights over land. Other recommendations favoured further industrial development and increased African participation in it, while the Council also welcomed an assurance

that African investors would be invited to subscribe to a new phosphate mining operation. It was pleased to learn of steps towards fiscal reform.

In the social field, the Council praised the Administering Authority for further measures designed to apply the Labour Code and to prevent abuses of the bride-price system, and for the efficient functioning of the medical services. It recommended improvements in prison conditions, intensified efforts to educate women and improve their status, and an increase in the strength of the medical staff throughout the Territory. Progress in primary education impressed the Council, which felt at the same time that efforts in secondary education should be intensified and more scholarships made available for higher education while the possibility of establishing facilities within the Territory was being further explored.

On the question of the establishment of time-limits for the attainment of self-government or independence, the promise by the Administering Authority of early proposals for ascertaining the wishes of the people led the Council to defer making any recommendation for the time being.

(*c*) Cameroons under British administration

Reports on the functioning of the new and largely African organs of government set up under the Nigerian Constitution of 1954 attracted particular interest on the part of the Trusteeship Council in its examination of the affairs of the approximately one-and-a-half million people of the Cameroons under British administration. The Council congratulated both the Administering Authority and the people on the progress which the Territory had made, especially in the political field; and it endorsed the view of its 1955 Visiting Mission that it was in the fields of economic, social and educational advancement that further progress was most urgently required.

While administered as an integral part of the Federation of Nigeria, the southern part of the Cameroons now has its own representative, executive and legislative organs. The northern part forms an integral part of the Northern Region of Nigeria, and shares the institutions of that Region as well as the Federation. These arrangements, in the Council's view, represented a significant political advance. With the prospect in September 1956 of a further representative conference in London to review constitutional progress, the Council decided that nothing should be done to prejudice the results of those discussions. It shared the view of the Visiting Mission that any precipitate decision regarding certain questions at issue among the people of the Cameroons should be avoided: these questions being those of the complete integration of the northern part in the Northern Region of Nigeria; the union of the two parts of the Cameroons; the unification of the Territory with the Cameroons under French administration. The Council felt that the Administering Authority should concentrate on educating the people and encouraging contracts between them so as to develop a spirit of social solidarity which would enable them to decide on their future in full knowledge of the facts.

The Council also dealt with the question of time-limits for self-government or independence in the light of the forthcoming London conference; it expressed the hope that the result would throw light on the attainment by the Territory of the objective and such steps as might be required to achieve it, and desired to be informed in due course.

Improvements undertaken or in prospect in the development of suffrage, local government organization, civil service conditions and the separation of local judicial and executive powers were welcomed by the Council. Economic progress was commended and the hope expressed that there would be further development of co-operatives, crop diversification, export production and other aspects of the largely agricultural economy. The setting up of a separate production development board for the Southern Cameroons was noted with satisfaction. In the execution of territorial development plans, the Council suggested that priority might usefully be given to demonstration centres and technical assistance and to the formation of domestic capital and preparation for further industrial development. The high priority already being given to road development was welcomed.

The Council noted with appreciation a statement by the Visiting Mission that the most noticeable aspect of the Territory was the air of freedom that prevailed throughout it. It praised efforts made to promote participation by the Africans in community work and towards continued progress in medical and health services. It noted some improvement in education but judged the rate of development to be slow in comparison with the rapid pace of constitutional advancement, and hoped that no efforts would be spared to increase school facilities and funds for educational purposes, especially in the northern areas.

(*d*) Cameroons under French administration

In this Territory of more than three million people the Council found cause for satisfaction in developments in the economic, social and educational fields. In the political field, its attention was largely occupied by the circumstances and the after-effects of political activities which had culminated in disorders in May 1955, and in the subsequent dissolution by law of a political party and two affiliated organizations.

The Council, while expressing regret over the disorders and the activities of certain political organizations, considered that the dissolution of the parties could not be regarded as the final solution; it hoped that the Administering Authority's present policy of tranquillization, together with the continued and intensified pursuit of programmes of reform and general development, would restore political activity to normalcy and bring tensions to an end. The Council also hoped that persons still in detention would be brought to trial in the near future, and that the Administering Authority would adopt an attitude of clemency towards those who had been led astray by mendacious and unrestrained propaganda.

While expressing satisfaction with economic, social and educational progress the Council, taking into account the setback which it felt the recent events might have caused to political progress, considered that newly oriented efforts should be made to accelerate the attainment of the political objectives of the Trusteeship System. It viewed with appreciation promising constitutional and institutional reforms which, it stated, were contemplated by the French Government and hoped that they would be shortly enacted into law. It noted with great satisfaction the extension of mixed rural *communes* to the whole of the southern part of the Cameroons and expressed hope for greater progress in this direction in the northern part. It also noted with satisfaction the "Africanization" of the civil service, which it hoped would be a continuing process. It hoped,

further, that a bill which it understood to be pending in the French Parliament to establish universal adult suffrage on the basis of a single electoral college would soon be enacted into law.

Progress in the various sectors of the economy and the growing participation of Africans, the creation of stabilization funds for coffee, cocoa and cotton prices, the development of co-operatives and industrialization, the diversification of crops, soil conservation measures and the results of the first phase of the economic and social development plan gained praise from the Council. In some cases, the Council urged further efforts in the same directions, and in others drew attention to particular problems, such as the unfortunate use of bush fires and the need for improvement in the processing of cattle hides.

Among aspects of social progress, the Council commended the Administering Authority for its actions to raise the status of women and in particular to solve the problem of the bride-price; welcomed the implementation of the Labour Code for Overseas Territories and hoped for its full application; noted with satisfaction the continued expansion of the medical and health services and expressed a particular hope that more African personnel would be trained; and encouraged further efforts in housing improvement and in combating alcoholism.

The Council praised the general progress made in the field of education, while drawing attention to the need for intensified efforts, especially in the Northern Cameroons, and to a number of particular problems such as the lag in the education of girls, the small numbers of children in secondary schools, the urgent need for skilled technicians and craftsmen and the lack of a local institution of higher learning.

Approaching the question of time-limits in the same manner as in the case of Tanganyika and Ruanda-Urundi, the Council mentioned the desirability of a more precise statement of the steps and manner in which self-government or independence was to be achieved, and recommended that the Administering Authority should indicate such successive intermediate targets and dates in the political, economic, social and educational fields as would create conditions for the attainment of the objectives.

(C) Trust Territories in the Pacific

(*a*) Western Samoa

In examining at its eighteenth session the annual report on Western Samoa, and with it the report of the 1956 Visiting Mission to the Pacific Trust Territories, the Trusteeship Council will have before it a proposed time-table for the remaining stages of constitutional advance short of the final achievement of self-government.

The proposals have evolved from a series of consultations and exchanges of view between the Samoan people and their representatives and the New Zealand Government, the principal phase of which was a constitutional convention held at the end of 1954. They provide, in effect, for the expected establishment by 1960 of a full cabinet Government, headed by a Premier chosen by a legislature from among its own members. There would then remain only one more step to be taken before it could be said that self-government had been finally achieved, namely, a change in the status of the representative of New Zealand in the Territory and the assumption by the Head of State of the proper powers and functions of that office. The timing of the final step would be the subject of discussions between the new Government of Western Samoa and the Government of New Zealand.

This further constitutional progress of the people of Western Samoa, who are now estimated to number more than 90,000, is envisaged in three main stages, for each of which a date has been suggested. The first step, proposed for 1956 and actually in effect, was the introduction of a "Member System" of government in which the elected members of the existing Executive Council, as well as the official members, have full status as members responsible for departments allotted to them. The second step, to coincide with the establishment in 1957 of a new legislature, would be the introduction of ministerial government, with the Executive Council functioning as a council of ministers. In the third step, suggested for 1960, cabinet government would be introduced, with a Premier presiding over the council of ministers. The council, then becoming a cabinet, would consist of members of the legislature chosen by the Premier, except that the ministers of justice and finance would be official members.

Before these proposals were approved in principle early in 1956 by the representative institutions of the Trust Territory, the Administering Authority placed emphasis on two other aspects of the attainment of self-government which demanded attention: the active use and development of the economic resources of the country, and the maintenance of the standard of the public service. Self-government—which the Samoan people requested as early as 1946 when they were consulted as to the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement—was no longer a political issue, the Administering Authority stated, but rather an administrative problem of great magnitude.

At its sixteenth session the Trusteeship Council had examined various aspects of the constitutional proposals as they stood at that time. It commended the Administering Authority for its successful policy of encouraging the people to work out an enduring system of democratic self-government and expressed the hope that, with its further assistance, the attainment of that objective would be realized in the near future. It also urged continued efforts towards the establishment of a common status for all the peoples of the Territory, and hoped that the Samoan leaders, who still insisted that suffrage and eligibility for election among the Samoans should be limited for the time being to the *matais*, or heads of extended families, would recognize the desirability of adjusting their system progressively to more modern democratic methods and eventually of adopting a system of universal suffrage.

As for the economic situation of the Territory, the Council at its sixteenth session noted with satisfaction that an economic survey had indicated that Western Samoa had sufficient natural resources to support a substantial increase in its rapidly-growing population—which at the present rate could double itself in twenty-one years—without reduction in the general standard of living. It had urged the Administering Authority to continue to study means of increasing agricultural production and to devote attention to the establishment of secondary industries.

In matters of social advancement the Council renewed its hopes for the enactment of labour legislation for the

Territory and the qualification of an increasing number of Samoans for senior medical posts. It recommended that compulsory primary education should be progressively introduced as early as possible, and also that secondary education facilities should be expanded.

(*b*) New Guinea

The progress and the problems of the nearly one-and-a-quarter million people of New Guinea, as reported on by both the Administering Authority and the 1956 Visiting Mission, are also scheduled for examination by the Council at its eighteenth session.

In its previous review of conditions in the Territory, the Council noted with satisfaction a further increase in the area brought under administrative control or influence. Examining again the arrangement by which the Trust Territory is administered jointly with the Australian territory of Papua, sharing a single executive, legislative and administrative system, the Council considered that the various common services operating through governmental departments appeared to be of certain advantage for the over-all administration of the Territory, particularly at its present stage of development. It reiterated, however, a previous recommendation that the arrangements made under the union should not be allowed to interfere with the development of New Guinea as a separate entity.

The Council noted that the Administering Authority considered that at present the most effective way of furthering the political development of the indigenous population was through the newly-introduced system of village councils. It continued to attach importance, however, to the participation of the people in the Legislative Council as well, and recommended that the Administering Authority should, as a first step, encourage the more advanced elements to take an interest in the proceedings of that body and to attend its sessions. As for the village councils, while noting their growth with satisfaction, the Council observed with concern a reluctance on the part of the people in some areas to accept the responsibility of local government, and recommended that the Administering Authority should endeavour to develop a sense of responsibility among the more energetic and intelligent elements of the population.

A considerable improvement in the economic field generally was noted with satisfaction by the Council, which found this improvement reflected in the growth of the co-operative movement among indigenous farmers, the development of the timber industry, and increases both in agricultural production and in the internal revenues of the Territory. It had observed with approval the Administration's programme for increasing the part played by the indigenous people in the economy. Learning of certain specialized economic surveys that had been made, the Council regarded these as a contribution towards the comprehensive survey of resources which it had previously recommended as basic to the establishment of a co-ordinated long-range programme which, in turn, was necessary to the sound economic development of the Territory.

The large direct grants made annually to the Territory by the Administering Authority had not passed unnoticed by the Council. Its appreciation of the extent of these subsidies led it again to express the hope that the introduction of direct taxation would be given further study. The Council felt that in addition to taxes levied by village councils—the only form of direct taxation in the Territory—all the people should contribute directly, according to their means, towards the cost of administration.

Further progress made in the field of public health gave the Council cause for satisfaction, although it drew attention to a continuing need for the training of indigenous medical personnel. Educational progress similarly satisfied the Council, but it recommended that special attention should be given to the advancement of secondary education and the provision of teachers. It also welcomed the institution of a scholarship scheme to send indigenous pupils to secondary schools in Australia, and had commended the Administering Authority for material support given to religious missions in their educational work.

(*c*) Nauru

The present conditions and, in a unique sense, the future prospects of the fewer than 2,000 islanders whose home is the tiny phosphate island of Nauru are again expected to receive the attention of the Council at its eighteenth session, when it will have before it the annual report of the Administering Authority and the report of the 1956 Visiting Mission.

When it previously examined the situation in Nauru, at its sixteenth session, the Council once more took up the problem of the future of the people after the exhaustion of the phosphate deposits in a period then estimated at approximately sixty years. The problem arose from the fact that there is little else in the present economic life of the Territory besides the mining and export, largely to Australia and New Zealand, of the phosphates; only a small part of the island is considered suitable for agriculture. Meanwhile, the phosphate industry, through various royalty payments accruing to the Nauruan people, through the subsidizing of the cost of administration and development, and to a lesser extent through paid employment, has maintained the indigenous population at a relatively high standard of living.

The Council learned with appreciation that a search for unpopulated and otherwise suitable areas beyond Nauru where the people might eventually be settled was being continued. It also suggested that the Administering Authority might give further consideration to the possibility of rehabilitating the worked-out phosphate lands.

As regards the existing situation in the Territory, the Council studied anew the functioning of the elected Nauru Local Government Council, expressing the hope that the Administering Authority would continue to guide it to an understanding of its powers so that it would make full use of them and, further, so that a legislative body would progressively be developed. While noting the relative prosperity brought to the island by the policy of the Administering Authority in regard to the phosphate industry—which is controlled by commissioners appointed by the three Governments constituting the Administering Authority—the Council emphasized the need for ensuring that the Nauruans should receive the maximum benefits from the exploitation of the island's resources. It urged the Administering Authority to pursue with all possible vigour its declared policy of fitting Nauruans to take more responsible positions in the industry, and it asked again to be supplied with the fullest possible information on the operation of the industry.

Satisfaction was expressed by the Council at increases made in basic minimum wages and at steps taken towards the repeal of statutory provisions restricting the movement at night of both Nauruans and immigrant workers. It expressed confidence that efforts being made in the educational field would be continued and that the necessary measures would be taken to enable Nauruans to receive higher education as soon as they had reached the required educational standard.

(*d*) Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

The Trusteeship Council is also preparing at its eighteenth session its annual report to the Security Council on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, designated as a strategic area. In this case, too, it will have before it both the annual report of the Administering Authority and the report of the 1956 Visiting Mission.

At its sixteenth session the Council expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved in all fields, and concluded that the Administering Authority was promoting the advancement of the indigenous people in full accordance with their wishes.

The displacement of certain groups of the population as a result of nuclear weapon experiments between 1946 and 1954 received further attention from the Council. It welcomed the information that the people of Uterik atoll had been returned to their homes and that the people of Rongelap would be returned as soon as possible, and it expressed satisfaction at measures taken to ensure the welfare of the displaced islanders. At its seventeenth session the Council dealt with a petition submitted on behalf of people of the Marshall Islands on the eve of further tests held in the area in the spring of 1956, asking again—as they had in 1954—that either such experiments should cease or, if they were judged absolutely necessary for the well-being of the world, all possible precautionary measures should be taken in advance. After learning the views of the Administering Authority as to the reasons for the further tests and its explanation of the precautions being taken, the Council adopted a resolution reaffirming the resolution which it had adopted on the petition submitted in 1954 and recommending that all necessary measures should be taken to guard against any possible dangers, to settle forthwith all justified claims by the inhabitants of Bikini and Eniwetok—the peoples who had been displaced for the earliest tests—and to compensate for the losses of any families which might have to be temporarily evacuated.

Among the conclusions and recommendations adopted on political matters during its sixteenth session, the Council, in the light of an existing geographical division of responsibility between civil and naval administrations, had noted assurances that close liaison was being maintained at all levels and had expressed the hope that every care would be taken to ensure uniformity of administrative practices.

Considerable progress had been reported in the gradual replacement of non-indigenous staff in the Administration by indigenous personnel and in the appointment of the latter to more responsible posts wherever possible. The Council expressed the hope that every effort would be made to appoint additional Micronesians to positions of responsibility. It also endorsed the policy of the Administering Authority of encouraging political development at the local government level; at the same time it hoped that the Administering Authority might find it possible to introduce progressively greater uniformity into the methods of representation on the various district councils.

The Council, recalling its previous recommendation concerning the need for continued efforts to expand and diversify the Territory's economy, noted with satisfaction the measures taken by the Administration in this respect. It commended the special emphasis placed by the Administering Authority upon strengthening the programme of agricultural development, and suggested that the Administering Authority should study the possibility of fostering co-operative enterprises in farming and in the marketing of agricultural products. It also hoped that a contemplated investigation of bauxite and manganese deposits would be undertaken as soon as possible, and that the Administering Authority would pursue its policy of settling land claims with the least possible delay.

The Council had been informed of encouragement given by the Administering Authority to local communities to take increasing responsibility for the financing and organization of education at the primary level. The Council noted this development with satisfaction, and expressed the hope that the Administering Authority would continue to take all necessary steps to provide education for all children in the rapidly increasing school-age population. It recommended that every effort should be made to raise the level of secondary education, and also urged the Administering Authority to continue to give close attention to the training, conditions of service and salaries of indigenous teachers.

3. Question of South West Africa

The recommendation by the General Assembly, reiterated annually since 1946, that the Mandated Territory of South West Africa should be placed under the International Trusteeship System has once more proved of no avail. Nor has the Government of the Union of South Africa found itself able to agree to the General Assembly's repeated wish that it resume negotiations with the Committee on South West Africa for the implementation of the advisory opinion given by the International Court of Justice in 1950 and assist the Committee in its task of examining conditions in the Territory.

The continuation of this situation throughout 1955 led the Committee to make, for the second time, an independent examination of the state of the Territory, and it submitted this second report to the General Assembly at its tenth session.

The Committee noted, among other things, that the Territory, which had a population in 1954 of 393,700 Africans and other non-Europeans and 53,600 Europeans, had been represented since 1951 (by European members) in both Houses of the South African Parliament. The Committee found the legal aspects of this representation of cardinal importance for the future of the Territory and suggested that the General Assembly should consider the advisability of clarifying the legal aspects involved in view of the status of the Territory as an international mandate.

The Committee reported that the expanding mining industry continued to dominate the economy, mineral products having been valued at £21,928,717 in 1953. The raising of karakul sheep was considered the most important branch of farming, and was confined almost ex-

clusively to European farms. The Committee endorsed recommendations of a territorial commission of inquiry for a gradual change from goat to karakul farming on Native reserves, with instruction and guidance in methods of breeding and marketing and, where this was not practicable, for the production of goat kid skins. The Committee also considered that the implementation of the recommendations of another commission of inquiry regarding the establishment of a livestock slaughtering and exporting centre would be in the interests of the Territory.

The Committee indicated that local government commissions had recognized the magnitude of the task of developing water resources and of reclaiming and conserving the land, but it expressed great concern at the limited expenditure so far incurred for such purpose. It urged the Union Government to explore the possibilities of securing technical and financial aid from the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

At the end of 1952, 45 per cent of the total land area had been allocated for Europeans, who represented less than 12 per cent of the population, while approximately 26 per cent of the total land area had been allocated for the Africans and others, who represented over 88 per cent of the population. The Committee expressed deep concern at this disparity and at the possibility that the demand for additional land by European farmers might lead to the further reduction of the area reserved for the Africans and others.

In reporting on social conditions in the Territory, the Committee observed that severe restrictions continued to be placed on the freedom of movement of the African and other non-European populations. It stated its firm conviction that these restrictions tended to create a social and political situation which was bound to affect adversely all the inhabitants of the Territory and urged the elimination of such discriminatory restrictions from the law and practice of the Territory. The Committee also made recommendations for improving labour conditions and for improving the educational situation. It drew special attention to discrimination on racial grounds in educational expenditures and facilities available to the different communities as well as in salaries and other emoluments for teachers.

In its concluding remarks, the Committee reiterated that, after nearly four decades of administration under the Mandates System, the Native inhabitants were still not participating in the political development of the Territory, their participation in the economic development was restricted to that of labourers and the social and educational services for their benefit were far from satisfactory. Racial discrimination was prevalent. After examining conditions for the second successive year it had found no significant improvement in the moral and material welfare of the Native inhabitants: it was apparent that the main efforts of the Administration were directed almost exclusively in favour of the European inhabitants of the Territory, often at the expense of the Native population. On the other hand, the Committee noted that efforts were being made to assess the problems of the Territory, and expressed the hope that certain of the recommendations of territorial commissions of inquiry would be implemented.

In resolution 941 (X), one of ten adopted at the tenth session on the question of South West Africa, the General Assembly approved the report of the Committee on South West Africa, and urged the Union Government to give serious consideration to the observations and recommendations of the Committee and to study the possibility of adopting measures to implement them in order to ensure the fulfilment of its obligations and responsibilities under the Mandate. The Assembly again invited the Union Government to co-operate with the Committee. It also requested the Committee, in the preparation of its next and all future reports, to include its recommendations on each aspect of conditions in the Territory for such particular action as it considered the Union Government should take to ensure the fulfilment of its obligations and responsibilities under the Mandate.

By resolution 940 (X), the General Assembly reiterated the resolutions which it had adopted at previous sessions regarding the placing of the Territory under trusteeship. By resolution 934 (X), it accepted and endorsed an advisory opinion given by the International Court of Justice which, in effect, supported the proposed application by the Assembly of the two-thirds majority rule of voting for questions relating to reports and petitions on South West Africa; and by resolution 942 (X), the Assembly decided to ask for a further advisory opinion as to the granting of oral hearings by the Committee on South West Africa. It adopted also five resolutions concerning petitions, and one dealing with a hearing granted by the Fourth Committee to the Reverend Michael Scott.

The absence of any change in the attitude of the Union Government led the Committee to decide to undertake in 1956 a third review of conditions in the Territory on the basis of information provided, mainly from official sources, by the Secretary-General.

In the course of the year, on 1 June, the International Court of Justice gave an advisory opinion on the new question mentioned above: its opinion was that the grant of oral hearings to petitioners by the Committee on South West Africa would be consistent with the advisory opinion which it had given on 11 July 1950.

4. Declaration regarding Non-Self-Governing Territories

(*a*) Transmission of information under Article 73 e of the Charter

Under Article 73 e of the Charter, information was transmitted to the Secretary-General in 1955 by seven Administering Members on fifty-eight Territories, as compared with fifty-nine Territories in 1954. The reduction was a consequence of the cessation of information in respect of Greenland.

Following the admission in December 1955 of sixteen States to membership in the United Nations, the Secretary-General, on 24 February 1956, addressed a communication to each of them drawing their attention to the obligations under Chapter XI of the Charter accepted by Members of the United Nations having or assuming responsibilities for the administration of Territories which have not yet attained a full measure of self-government. He invited the new Members to inform him whether there were any Territories referred to in Article 73 for the administration of which they were responsible. The Secretary-General also drew attention to the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, including resolution 845 (IX) by which all Members of the United Nations were invited to extend

to inhabitants from Non-Self-Governing Territories offers of facilities for study and training. To date, the Secretary-General has received replies from Austria, Cambodia, Ceylon, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Laos, Libya and Romania, stating that they do not administer Territories referred to in Article 73 of the Charter. The Secretary-General will inform the General Assembly of any further replies which he may receive subsequent to the publication of the present report.

In accordance with Assembly resolutions 218 (III) and 846 (IX), the Secretary-General has prepared for the eleventh session of the General Assembly full summaries on conditions in the fifty-eight Non-Self-Governing Territories in respect of which information was transmitted to him. These summaries usually apply to the calendar year 1954 or the administrative year 1954-1955 but information is also included, wherever possible, for the two previous years and also for 1948. The summaries were also submitted to the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories at its seventh session.

As in previous years, most of the Members transmitting information used as a guide the revised Standard Form which the General Assembly adopted by resolution 551 (VI) and amended by resolution 930 (X). Several Members also voluntarily transmitted information on government as requested by resolutions 144 (II), 327 (IV) and 848 (IX).

(*b*) Examination of information

(i) *General*

At its tenth session, the General Assembly decided that it would be desirable, on the basis of information transmitted to the Secretary-General under Article 73 e of the Charter, to examine the progress achieved in the Non-Self-Governing Territories since the establishment of the United Nations. The Secretary-General was invited to consult the specialized agencies on the main points that might be useful in such an examination. In accordance with the resolution, he will submit to the Assembly at its eleventh session a report on these points.

In the course of discussions in the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories at its seventh session, attention was drawn to what were regarded as inadequacies in the information provided to the Committee. It was suggested that, in connexion with the review to be undertaken of the progress made in the Territories, the Assembly might examine the Standard Form with a view to assessing the adequacy of the information supplied. It was also suggested that the Secretariat might be able to prepare for the next session of the Committee an analysis of the use made of the Standard Form by Members who transmitted information.

Several members of the Committee referred to the work of non-governmental organizations in the economic, social and educational fields in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. It was suggested that the information transmitted under Article 73 e should include a description of the work of such organizations.

In 1955, the General Assembly, by resolution 933 (X), decided to continue for three years the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories on the same basis as provided in resolution 332 (IV). The Fourth Committee, on behalf of the Assembly, re-elected China, India and Iraq, and elected Venezuela, as members of the Committee. At its seventh session, the membership of the Committee therefore comprised the seven Administering Members and Burma, China, Guatemala, India, Iraq, Peru and Venezuela. The terms of office of Burma and Guatemala expire in 1956. The Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization also participated in the work of the Committee.

(ii) *Educational conditions*

The Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories in 1956 gave its particular attention to educational conditions. Specialist advisers on education were attached to the delegations of France, Guatemala, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

The Secretariat prepared for the Committee a review of general developments in education in the Territories since 1953 and reports on secondary education, teacher training, the status of teachers and the financing of higher education. UNESCO prepared for the Committee reports on the stagnation of primary pupils, the eradication of illiteracy and reading material for new literates.

As in previous years, the Committee appointed a Sub-Committee with broad terms of reference to prepare for its consideration a report on education in Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Sub-Committee was composed of Australia, Burma, France, Guatemala, India, the United Kingdom, the United States and Venezuela. The representative of UNESCO also took part in its work. This report was approved by the Committee on Information and will be submitted to the General Assembly.

The Committee was informed of the educational advancement made in recent years in a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories, both in terms of expenditure and in progress towards universal and free schooling at the primary level, as well as in the expansion and further development of secondary and higher education. In considering this evolution, the Committee noted that progress in education was all the more urgent now that fundamental changes were taking place rapidly in the Non-Self-Governing Territories leading to the attainment of the objectives of Chapter XI of the Charter.

This year the Committee reviewed the means by which the objectives of education set forth in General Assembly resolution 743 (VIII) can be more surely promoted, the educational needs of the people met and fresh advancement stimulated. It considered problems involved in the extension of education at the primary, secondary and higher levels, and in the provision of vocational and technical education, adult education and education for women and girls. Among other aspects, it also gave attention to financing, local participation, race relations in education, and international regional and technical and scientific collaboration. The Committee emphasized that education in the Non-Self-Governing Territories should be conceived on a broad basis, that it should be a reflection of democratic self-government with control vested in representatives of the local populations, and that teaching must be closely linked with the local indigenous life and culture.

The Committee is recommending to the General Assembly the approval of the report on education and its

transmission to Members of the United Nations, to the Economic and Social Council, to the Trusteeship Council and to the specialized agencies concerned.

(iii) *Economic conditions*

The Committee on Information this year again emphasized the importance of raising the standards of living of the inhabitants in all the Non-Self-Governing Territories. As the Committee will give its special attention to economic conditions in 1957, the discussion centered mainly on a number of important economic problems in which further efforts of the Administering Members were urgently needed. One of the problems was the change from a rural self-sufficient economy to an urban economy. In many Territories there was a need to develop the basic facilities, to attract foreign investments and to develop industries. It was suggested that fiscal and tariff policies should be reviewed from time to time to ensure that they were in the interest of the economic life of the Territories.

The Committee also considered a working paper prepared for it by the Secretariat. In the light of views previously expressed by the Committee, the Secretariat proposed to undertake studies on general programmes of industrial development, the comparison of imports of consumer and capital goods, the real income of wage-earners and the place of co-ordinated planning of international technical assistance within the framework of the general development schemes in the Territories. The Secretariat would also inform the Committee of the progress of international studies on the means of assessing social change and standards of living and on studies undertaken on hydraulic projects in agriculture.

The Committee stressed the necessity for a full analysis of development plans and general economic development, having regard to the paramount interests of the inhabitants in the Territories. The Committee has invited the Secretary-General to prepare the necessary studies and to seek the collaboration of the specialized agencies, taking account of the working paper and of the suggestions made by its members.

(iv) *Social conditions*

The report on social conditions adopted at the sixth session of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories was approved by the General Assembly in resolution 929 (X) as a supplement to the report approved in 1952. As requested by the Assembly, the Secretary-General has communicated the report to the Members responsible for the administration of Non-Self-Governing Territories, to the Economic and Social Council, to the Trusteeship Council and to the specialized agencies concerned.

The Assembly also decided, in resolution 930 (X), to modify the revised Standard Form which it had adopted in resolution 551 (VI) by the addition of a section on community development, providing for information on basic programmes and progress, administrative organization, methods and techniques as well as the training of personnel.

During the discussions in the Committee on Information in 1955, attention was again drawn to the importance of community development programmes and the need for their expansion and extension. Some Administering Members provided the Committee with information on recent advances in community development programmes in their Territories. Increased efforts were being directed towards assuring the economic stability of rural communities, the establishment of organizations and societies to promote closer relations between farmer and technicians, and the co-ordination of various aspects of social development.

The Secretariat prepared for the consideration of the Committee a working paper setting out proposed studies on social conditions to be examined by the Committee in 1958. Particular attention would be paid to social problems of family and community, as for instance, problems of family change in the urban-industrial areas, juvenile delinquency, components and levels of workers' family income and measures for family welfare and protection.

The Committee gave its general approval to these proposals and will give its more detailed attention to its programme of work relating to social conditions at its next session.

(*c*) Cessation of the transmission of information

(i) *Netherlands Antilles and Surinam*

The cessation of the transmission of information on the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam has been on the agenda of the General Assembly since 1951, and in 1955 a decision was finally taken on this question.

On 4 April 1955, the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands, in compliance with resolution 222 (III), had transmitted to the Secretary-General information on constitutional changes in the two Territories. As the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories at its sixth session had not had time to give full consideration to the question, it continued its discussions at a resumed session, held shortly before the opening of the tenth session of the Assembly. To assist the Committee in its examination of the information, the Government of the Netherlands included in its delegation representatives of the Governments of the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam.

The Committee adopted a resolution in which it commended this action of the Government of the Netherlands, noted with satisfaction the political advancement achieved by the peoples of Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles, noted from the documentation submitted that the peoples of these Territories had expressed through their fully elected representative bodies their approval of the new Constitution, and expressed the opinion—within the limits of its terms of reference and without anticipating the final disposal of this question by the Assembly—that the transmission of information under Article 73 e of the Charter in respect of Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles was no longer necessary or appropriate.

On the basis of the report of the Committee and the information from the Government of the Netherlands and from the Prime Ministers of the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam, the General Assembly, in resolution 945 (X), decided that the cessation of the transmission of information under Article 73 e of the Charter in respect of the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam was appropriate.

(ii) *Procedures for the consideration of communications relating to the cessation of the transmission of information*

As the Committee on Information at its sixth session had not been able to submit any recommendations for

the implementation of General Assembly resolution 850 (IX), at the last session of the Assembly, the question of procedures for the consideration of communications relating to the cessation of the transmission of information was again referred to the Committee, together with a draft resolution submitted by Iraq in the Fourth Committee of the Assembly.

The draft resolution would have the General Assembly decide that, notwithstanding the provisions of resolution 448 (V), communications transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Members concerned relating to the cessation of information in respect of a Non-Self-Governing Territory should be referred directly to the Assembly for its examination.

Accordingly, the Committee on Information discussed the question at its seventh session early in 1956. The Secretariat prepared for the information of the Committee a report showing the procedures which had been worked out for the consideration of information communicated to the Secretary-General in accordance with resolution 222 (III). In the past, the Committee had examined first such information and heard explanations concerning Territories which had changed status without achieving full independence. The representative of Iraq explained that, although this procedure had worked fairly well, his delegation was of the opinion that the information communicated in accordance with resolution 222 (III) should be first considered by the Assembly, particularly in cases of cessation of information which raised questions of international law and national policy, as, for instance, if the cessation of information took place concurrently with the Territory's admission to membership in the United Nations as a newly independent State. Questions arising out of such communications could be referred by the Assembly to the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories or to some other committee if it considered that more detailed examination by a small committee was desirable.

A number of representatives indicated their general support for the draft resolution and favoured a change which would first bring to the direct attention of the Assembly communications relating to the change in status of a Non-Self-Governing Territory.

On the other hand, in support of the continuation of the existing procedures, it was stated that the Committee on Information was primarily concerned with the welfare of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and it was, therefore, in the interest of these inhabitants that the information communicated under resolution 222 (III) should be considered first by that Committee.

As a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, charged primarily with the function of examination of information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter, the Committee decided to include in its report for the information of the General Assembly a record of the discussions in the Committee.

(*d*) International collaboration for economic and social advancement

(i) *Collaboration with specialized agencies*

Close working collaboration continues to be maintained at the Secretariat level with the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization in the work concerning Non-Self-Governing Territories. These specialized agencies again took part in the work of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories at its seventh session. In addition to the three reports which it prepared for the Committee, UNESCO also presented an exhibition of literacy materials in various languages. The publications selected were chosen to show the styles of production and types of materials used in teaching reading and writing in different parts of the world. FAO, ILO and WHO reported to the Committee on their activities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and on their work of interest to those Territories. Members of the Committee expressed their appreciation for the collaboration of the specialized agencies and hoped that this collaboration would be further increased and consolidated.

FAO has indicated its intention of undertaking for the next session of the Committee a paper on the progress of agricultural production for food consumption. When the Committee next discusses social conditions, WHO intends to submit to it a document on long-term health plans for the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and is prepared to render assistance to the Administering Members in planning such long-term health programmes in their Territories and in implementing health plans. Consideration would be given to the planning of long-term health programmes on the following subjects: development plans, major health problems, health and medical services, personnel requirements, financial requirements, international assistance needed and implementation and evalution of the programme. ILO has given its assurance that, within the limits of its own responsibilities and programmes, every assistance will be given to the Committee for its 1958 studies.

(ii) *Technical assistance*

This year the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories reviewed the provision of international technical assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration and under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. The information before the Committee, which had been prepared by the Secretary-General, showed that since 1954 there had been a sustained increase both in the allocations made available and in the number of experts assigned and fellowships awarded. In a number of Territories the technical assistance was mainly in the field of public health. In a few Territories where development plans were being implemented technical assistance was being provided in a number of different fields as a supplement to the efforts of the Territories themselves and of the Administering Members concerned.

The Committee welcomed this increase in international technical assistance and expressed the hope that the upward trend would continue. The Committee has indicated that, at its next session, in connexion with its review of economic conditions, it will examine the effect of technical assistance in the Territories and its integration into long-term development programmes.

The Committee expressed its appreciation to the United Nations Children's Fund for its continued assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories. UNICEF assistance to Territories in Africa is largely for mass health programmes for the control of leprosy, malaria, trachoma, tuberculosis, venereal diseases and

yaws. In the Caribbean area, greater assistance is being given to school feeding. In the Asia-Pacific area, the Solomon Islands will receive aid for the first time.

(iii) *Scholarships for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories*

By resolution 931 (X) of 8 November 1955, the General Assembly took note of the report submitted by the Secretary-General on the establishment of procedures and of offers of study and training which had been received under resolution 845 (IX).

At the end of 1955, the Secretary-General had received communications from the Governments of Burma, the Philippines, Thailand, Turkey and Yugoslavia concerning the offer of scholarships under resolution 845 (IX). In addition, the Secretary-General had also been informed by the Governments of Egypt, India and the United States of America of scholarships which they had made available to students from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Since the beginning of 1956, the Secretary-General has received offers from the Governments of Iran, Poland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and has been informed by the Government of India of additional scholarships which it has made available to students from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Most of the offers for scholarships and training facilities are for higher education. In some cases the offers include preliminary study to acquire a knowledge of the language of the country of study.

Paragraph 7 of resolution 845 (IX) "requests the Secretary-General to include in the United Nations information material details of all offers and of the procedures to be followed in submitting applications and further requests him to transmit such details to the specialized agencies with a view to securing similar publicity in their appropriate publications". Publicity has been given to this scholarship scheme in United Nations Press releases and in the *United Nations Review.* In response to the information communicated to it by the Secretary-General, UNESCO included in its publication *Study Abroad,* volume VIII, 1955-1956, information on scholarships made available up to 14 June 1955.

By the end of May 1956, approximately seventy applications had been received from students from Non-Self-Governing Territories. These applications have been processed in accordance with the procedures established. Territories from which applications have originated are as follows: Antigua (1); British Guiana (2); Jamaica (13); Singapore (1); Gold Coast (15); Kenya (12); Nigeria (14); Northern Rhodesia (1); Nyasaland (2); Sierra Leone (4); Uganda (1); and Zanzibar (1).

Further information on the question will be supplied to the General Assembly through a special report to be prepared in accordance with resolution 931 (X).

Chapter IV

LEGAL QUESTIONS

1. International Court of Justice

(*a*) Jurisdiction of the Court

(i) *Acceptance of compulsory jurisdiction*

Since the last annual report of the Secretary-General, four declarations accepting the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court in accordance with Article 36, paragraph 2, of the Statute of the International Court of Justice have been deposited. Three of these declarations replaced previously existing declarations, which were withdrawn.

By a declaration dated 19 December 1955, deposited with the Secretary-General on the same date, the Government of Portugal recognized, subject to certain conditions, the jurisdiction of the Court as compulsory *ipso facto* and without special agreement, from the date of deposit of the declaration for a period of one year and thereafter until notice of denunciation.

By an instrument dated 12 September 1955, received by the Secretary-General on 13 September, the Government of the Union of South Africa withdrew and terminated its declaration of 7 April 1940 which, in accordance with Article 36, paragraph 5, of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, ranked as an acceptance of the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court. By a declaration of 12 September 1955 received by the Secretary-General on 13 September, the Government of the Union of South Africa accepted the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice until notice of termination, subject to certain conditions.

By an instrument dated 31 October 1955, received by the Secretary-General on the same date, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland gave notice of the termination by that State of its acceptance of the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice under the declaration deposited on 2 June 1955. By a declaration dated 31 October 1955, and deposited with the Secretary-General on the same date, the Government of the United Kingdom accepted the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court until notice of termination, subject to certain conditions.

By an instrument dated 7 January 1956, deposited with the Secretary-General on 9 January, the Government of India gave notice of termination of the declaration made on 28 February 1940, and deposited with the Secretary-General of the League of Nations on 7 March 1940 which, in accordance with Article 36, paragraph 5, of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, ranked as an acceptance of the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court. By a declaration of 7 January 1956, deposited with the Secretary-General on 9 January, the Government of India accepted the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice until notice of termination, subject to certain conditions.

(ii) *New parties to the Statute of the Court*

The number of States parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice has been increased as the result of the admission, on 14 December 1955, of sixteen States to membership in the United Nations, Article 93 of the Charter providing that all Members of the United Nations are *ipso facto* parties to the Statute of the Court.

(iii) *Instruments conferring jurisdiction on the Court*

The following treaties, registered or filed and recorded with the Secretariat of the United Nations, contained clauses conferring jurisdiction on the International Court of Justice in certain eventualities:

Treaty of Friendship between Thailand and Indonesia (signed at Bangkok on 3 March 1954).

Agreement between the Philippines and the United Kingdom relating to Air Services (signed at Manila on 31 January 1955).

Agreement between Belgium and Lebanon relating to Air Services (signed at Beirut on 24 December 1953).

Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation between Israel and the United States of America (signed at Washington on 23 August 1951).

Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation between Greece and the United States of America (signed at Athens on 3 August 1951).

Treaty of Friendship, Consular Services and Establishment between Greece and the Philippines (signed at Manila on 28 August 1950).

Universal Copyright Convention (signed at Geneva on 6 September 1952—multilateral).

Air Transport Agreement between Italy and Lebanon (signed at Beirut on 24 January 1949).

(iv) *Jurisdiction of the Court in advisory cases*

Since the last annual report no new authority has been granted by the General Assembly to request advisory opinions of the Court.

(*b*) Cases before the Court

1. *Aerial Incident of 10 March 1953* (United States of America *v.* Czechoslovakia)

On 29 March 1955, the Government of the United States of America filed in the Registry an Application

dated 22 March 1955, instituting proceedings before the Court against the Government of the Czechoslovak Republic on account of "certain wrongful acts committed by MIG-type aircraft from Czechoslovakia within the United States zone of occupation in Germany on 10 March 1953".

This Application was communicated in accordance with the provisions of Article 40, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the Statute.

The Application contained the following paragraphs:

"The United States Government, in filing this application with the Court, submits to the Court's jurisdiction for the purposes of this case. The Czechoslovak Government appears not to have filed any declaration with the Court thus far, although it was invited to do so by the United States Government in the note annexed hereto. The Czechoslovak Government, however, is qualified to submit to the jurisdiction of the Court in this matter and may upon notification of this application by the Registrar, in accordance with the Rules of the Court, take the necessary steps to enable the Court's jurisdiction over both parties to the dispute to be confirmed.

"The United States Government thus founds the jurisdiction of this Court on the foregoinig considerations and on Article 36, paragraph 1, of the Statute."

The note annexed to the Application, which was addressed on 18 August 1954 by the Government of the United States to the Czechoslovak Government, ends with the following passage:

"Since it appears that the Czechoslovak Government has thus far not filed with that Court any declaration of acceptance of the compulsory jurisdiction of that Court, the United States Government invites the Czechoslovak Government to file an appropriate declaration with that Court or to enter into a Special Agreement by which the Court may, in accordance with its Statute and Rules, proceed to a determination of the issues of fact and law which have been set forth herein; and the Czechoslovak Government is requested to inform the United States Government in the reply to the present note of its intentions with respect to such a declaration or Special Agreement."

In a letter dated 6 May 1955 from the Minister of the Czechoslovak Republic in the Netherlands to the Registry it was stated that:

"As the Czechoslovak Government has already stated in its Notes to the Embassy of the United States of America in Prague of 11 and 30 March 1953, the aerial incident of 10 March 1953, occurred above Czechoslovak territory as the result of a violation of the Czechoslovak air space by American military aircraft, and all responsibility therefore lies solely upon the Government of the United States of America.

"The Czechoslovak Government would observe that the claims put forward by the Government of the United States in this connexion against Czechoslovakia are without point and that the Application purporting to bring this matter before the International Court of Justice is totally unfounded. The Czechoslovak Government can see no reason why this case should be considered by the International Court of Justice and regards the Application of the United States instituting such proceedings before the International Court of Justice as unacceptable."

A certified true copy of this letter was communicated to the Government of the United States on 7 May 1955.

As the letter of 6 May did not constitute on the part of the Government of Czechoslovakia either the appropriate declaration or consent to conclude a Special Agreement, the Court, in an Order made by it on 14 March 1956, found that it had not before it any acceptance by the Government of the Czechoslovak Republic of its jurisdiction to deal with the dispute which was the subject of the Application submitted to it by the Government of the United States and that, therefore, it could take no further steps upon this Application, and ordered that the case be removed from the list.

2. *Antarctica Cases* (United Kingdom *v.* Argentina and United Kingdom *v.* Chile)

On 4 May 1955, the Government of the United Kingdom filed in the Registry two Applications instituting proceedings before the Court against the Republic of Argentina concerning a dispute relating to the sovereignty over certain islands and lands in the Antarctic which lie between longitudes 25 degrees and 74 degrees west and to the southwards of latitude 60 degrees south, and against the Republic of Chile concerning a dispute relating to the sovereignty over certain islands and lands in the Antarctic which lie between longitudes 53 degrees and 80 degrees west and to the southward of latitude 58 degrees south.

These Applications were communicated in accordance with the provisions of Article 40, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the Statute.

The Application instituting proceedings against the Republic of Argentina contained the following:

"42. The United Kingdom Government . . . declares that it hereby submits to the jurisdiction of the Court for the purposes of the case referred to the Court in the present Application . . . The Argentine Government has not, so far as the United Kingdom Government is aware, yet filed any declaration accepting the Court's jurisdiction, either generally under Article 36, paragraph 2, of the Statute or specially in the present case. The Argentine Government, which has frequently expressed its adherence to the principle of judicial settlement of international disputes, is, however, legally qualified to submit to the jurisdiction of the Court in this case. Consequently, upon notification of the present Application to the Republic of Argentina by the Registrar in accordance with the Rules of Court, the Argentine Government, under the settled jurisprudence of the Court, can take the necessary steps to that end, and thereby cause the Court's jurisdiction in the case to be constituted in respect of both Parties.

"43. The United Kingdom Government founds the jurisdiction of the Court on the foregoing considerations and on Article 36, paragraph 1, of the Court's Statute; . . .".

The Application instituting proceedings against the Republic of Chile contained the same paragraphs, respectively numbered 40 and 41.

A communication from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Public Worship of Argentina to the Reg-

istrar, set out in a letter to the Registrar of 1 August 1955, from the Ambassador of Argentina to the Netherlands, stated:

"... The Argentine Government has several times had occasion to indicate in notes addressed to Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy in Buenos Aires that it cannot consent to the question of sovereignty over the Antarctic territories of Argentina which it is sought to raise being referred for decision to any international Court of Justice or Arbitration Tribunal. By this present note, my Government reaffirms its refusal in the most express way with regard to the jurisdiction of this Court and with regard to any possibility that it should be seized as such to deal with this case."

A copy of this letter was communicated by the Registrar to the Agent for the Government of the United Kingdom by a letter dated 3 August 1955.

In a letter dated 15 July 1955, addressed to the Registrar, and handed to him on 2 August, the Chilean Minister to the Netherlands, on the instructions of his Government, recalled that on various occasions in the past his Government had "indicated to the Government of the United Kingdom that recourse to the International Court of Justice cannot be applicable in the case of the Chilean Antarctic", and after setting forth the text of a note addressed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chile to the British Embassy in Santiago on 4 May 1955, in which recourse to the Court for the settlement of the controversy was declined, the Minister concluded:

"My Government consequently will confine itself on this occasion to stating that the application of the Government of the United Kingdom is unfounded and that it is not open to the International Court of Justice to exercise jurisdiction in this case."

A copy of this letter was communicated to the Agent for the Government of the United Kingdom on 3 August.

In a letter dated 31 August 1955, addressed to the Registrar, the Agent for the Government of the United Kingdom stated that it regarded the letter of 15 July from the Chilean Minister to the Netherlands and the letter of 1 August from the Ambassador of Argentina to the Netherlands as amounting to a rejection of the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice.

In these circumstances, by two Orders made on 16 March 1956, the Court found that it had not before it any acceptance by the Government of Argentina and the Government of Chile of its jurisdiction to deal with the disputes which were the subject of the Applications submitted to it by the United Kingdom Government and that, therefore, it could take no further steps upon these Applications and ordered that the cases be removed from the list.

3. *Aerial Incident of 7 October 1952* (United States of America *v.* Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)

On 2 June 1955, the Government of the United States of America filed in the Registry an Application dated 26 May 1955, instituting proceedings before the Court against the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on account of "certain willful acts committed by fighter aircraft of the Soviet Government against a United States Air Force B-29 aircraft and its crew off Hokkaido, Japan, on 7 October 1952".

This Application was communicated in accordance with the provisions of Article 40, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the Statute.

The application contained the following paragraphs:

"The United States Government, in filing this application with the Court, submits to the Court's jurisdiction for the purposes of this case. The Soviet Government appears not to have filed any declaration with the Court thus far, although it was invited to do so by the United States Government in the note annexed hereto. The Soviet Government is, however, qualified to submit to the jurisdiction of the Court in this matter and may upon notification of this application by the Registrar, in accordance with the Rules of the Court, take the necessary steps to enable the Court's jurisdiction over both parties to the dispute to be confirmed.

"The United States Government thus founds the jurisdiction of this Court on the foregoing considerations and on Article 36, paragraph 1, of the Statute."

The note annexed to the Application, which was addressed on 25 September 1954 by the Government of the United States of America to the Government of the USSR, ends with the following passage:

"Since it appears that the Soviet Government has thus far not filed with that Court any declaration of acceptance of the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court, the United States Government invites the Soviet Government to file an appropriate declaration with the Court, or to enter into a Special Agreement, by which the Court may be empowered in accordance with its Statute and Rules to determine the issues of fact and law which have been set forth herein; and the Soviet Government is requested to inform the United States Government in its reply to the present note of its intentions with respect to such a declaration or Special Agreement."

In a letter dated 26 August 1955, from the *Chargé d'affaires* of the USSR in the Netherlands to the Registry it was stated that:

"In its last note on this question, dated 30 December 1954, addressed to the Government of the United States of America, the Government of the USSR indicated that since the American military aircraft violated the frontier of the USSR and opened fire without any reason upon Soviet fighter aircraft, responsibility for the incident which occurred and for its consequences rests entirely upon the American side; in these circumstances the Soviet Government cannot take into consideration the claim set forth in the note of the Government of the United States of American of 25 September 1954, and considers that the proposal that this case should be referred for consideration to the International Court of Justice is totally unfounded.

"Having regard to the foregoing, the Soviet Government considers that no question arises in this case which calls for a decision of the International Court of Justice and it sees no reason why the question should be dealt with by the International Court of Justice."

A certified true copy of this letter was communicated to the Government of the United States of America on 29 August 1955. As the letter of 26 August did not

constitute on the part of the Government of the USSR either the appropriate declaration or consent to conclude a Special Agreement, the Court, in an Order made by it on 14 March 1956, found that it had not before it any acceptance by the Government of the USSR of its jurisdiction to deal with the dispute which was the subject of the Application submitted to it by the Government of the United States of America and that, therefore, it could take no further steps upon this Application, and ordered that the case be removed from the list.

4. *Advisory opinion on admissibility of hearings of petitioners by the Committee on South West Africa*

On 1 June 1956, the International Court of Justice delivered its advisory opinion in the case relating to the admissibility of hearings of petitioners by the Committee on South West Africa of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The advisory opinion had been requested by the General Assembly which, on 3 December 1955, adopted the following resolution for this purpose:

"The General Assembly,

"Having been requested by the Committee on South West Africa to decide whether or not the oral hearing of petitioners on matters relating to the Territory of South West Africa is admissible before that Committee (A/2913/Add.2),

"Having instructed the Committee, in General Assembly resolution 749 A (VIII) of 28 November 1953, to examine petitions as far as possible in accordance with the procedure of the former Mandates System,

"Requests the International Court of Justice to give an advisory opinion on the following question:

" 'Is it consistent with the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 11 July 1950 for the Committee on South West Africa, established by General Assembly resolution 749 A (VIII) of 28 November 1953, to grant oral hearings to petitioners on matters relating to the Territory of South West Africa?' "

On receipt of the request for an opinion, the Court gave an opportunity to Member States of the United Nations to present their views. The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of China submitted written statements, and a representative of the Government of the United Kingdom made an oral statement at a public sitting of the Court. The Secretary-General of the United Nations transmitted the documents likely to throw light upon the question, together with an introductory note.

In its opinion, the Court first indicated its understanding of the question submitted to it. It understood it as relating to persons who have submitted written petitions to the Committee on South West Africa, in conformity with its rules of procedure. It also considered that it related not to the authority of the Committee to grant hearings in its own right but to the question whether it is legally open to the General Assembly to authorize the Committee to grant hearings.

The Assembly asked whether the grant of hearings would be consistent with the advisory opinion delivered by the Court in 1950. In order to answer that question, the Court had to have regard to the whole of that opinion and its general purport and meaning. It therefore analysed the opinion. The operative part indicated that the obligations of the Mandatory continued unimpaired with this difference, that the supervisory functions formerly exercised by the Council of the League of Nations were now to be exercised by the United Nations. The organ now exercising these supervisory functions, that is, the General Assembly, was legally qualified to carry out an effective and adequate supervision of the administration of the Mandated Territory. In the reasoning on which the opinion of 1950 was based, the Court made it clear that the obligations of the Mandatory, including the obligation to transmit reports and petitions and to submit to the supervision, were those which obtained under the Mandates system. These obligations could not be extended, and consequently the degree of supervision to be exercised by the Assembly should not exceed that which applied under the Mandates system. Following its finding regarding the substitution of the General Assembly for the Council of the League of Nations in the exercise of supervision, the Court stated that the degree of supervision should conform as far as possible to the procedure followed by the Council of the League of Nations. But the necessity for supervision continued to exist: the Charter preserved the rights of States and peoples under existing international agreements, which implied the existence of a supervisory organ. From this analysis of the opinion of 1950, it was clear that its paramount purpose was to safeguard the sacred trust of civilization through the maintenance of effective international supervision: in interpreting any particular sentences in the opinion, it was not permissible to attribute to them a meaning which would not be in conformity with this paramount purpose or with the operative part of the opinion.

How was the question of the grant of oral hearings dealt with during the régime of the League of Nations? The texts do not refer to hearings and no hearings were ever granted. Nor, however, do the texts refer to the right of petition, an innovation which was nevertheless introduced by the Council of the League to render its supervisory functions more effective: it was competent to do so, and it would also have been competent to authorize the Permanent Mandates Commission to grant hearings, had it seen fit to do so.

In this connexion, it had been contended that the opinion of 1950 was intended to express the view that the Mandates system and the degree of supervision must be deemed to have been crystallized, so that the General Assembly could not do anything which the Council had not actually done, even if it had had authority to do it. That was not the case. There was nothing in the opinion of 1950, or in the relevant texts, that could be construed as in any way restricting the authority of the Assembly to less than that conferred on the Council of the League of Nations. It was proper for the Court to point out, in its opinion of 1950, that the Assembly could not enlarge its authority, but the Court was not called upon to determine whether the Assembly could or could not exercise powers which the Council of the League had possessed but for the exercise of which no occasion had arisen.

Reliance had also been placed on the sentence in the opinion of 1950, to the effect that the degree of supervision to be exercised by the General Assembly should not exceed that which applied under the Man-

dates system, and it had been suggested that the grant of hearings would involve such an excess in the degree of supervision. But, in the present circumstances, in which the Committee on South West Africa was working without the assistance of the Mandatory, hearings might enable it to be in a better position to judge the merits of petitions. That, however, was in the interest of the Mandatory as well as of the proper working of the Mandates system. It could not therefore be presumed that the grant of hearings increased the burden upon the Mandatory. Nor was it possible to interpret the sentence in the opinion of 1950 referred to above as being intended to restrict the activity of the General Assembly to measures which had actually been applied by the League of Nations. The context of the sentence was against such a construction, as was the opinion given by the Court in 1955.

The Court lastly noted that, by reason of the lack of co-operation by the Mandatory, the Committee on South West Africa had been constrained to make provision for an alternative procedure for the receipt and treatment of petitions. The particular question which had been submitted to the Court arose out of a situation in which the Mandatory had maintained its refusal to assist in giving effect to the opinion of 11 July 1950, and to co-operate with the United Nations by the submission of reports, and by the transmission of petitions in conformity with the procedure of the Mandates system. This sort of situation had been provided for by the statement in the Court's opinion of 1950 that the degree of supervision to be exercised by the General Assembly "should conform as far as possible to the procedure followed in this respect by the Council of the League of Nations."

In conclusion, the Court held that it would not be inconsistent with its opinion of 11 July 1950 for the General Assembly to authorize a procedure for the grant of oral hearings by the Committee on South West Africa to petitioners who had already submitted written petitions: provided that the Assembly was satisfied that such a course was necessary for the maintenance of effective international supervision of the administration of the Mandated Territory.

The Court's opinion, which was adopted by 8 votes to 5, therefore gave an affirmative answer to the question put to it. Two members of the Court—Judges Winiarski and Kojevnikov—while voting in favour of the opinion, appended declarations thereto. Judge Sir Hersch Lauterpacht, who also voted for the opinion, appended thereto a separate opinion. The five members of the Court who voted against the advisory opinion—Vice-President Badawi and Judges Basdevant, Hsu Mo, Armand-Ugon and Moreno Quintana—appended to the opinion of the Court a joint dissenting opinion.

5. *Case of certain Norwegian loans* (France *v.* Norway)

On 6 July 1955, the French Embassy at The Hague filed in the Registry of the Court an Application by the Government of the French Republic instituting proceedings against the Government of the Kingdom of Norway.

The Application states that on various dates between 1885 and 1907 the Kingdom of Norway issued on the French market a certain number of international bonds payable in gold or including a gold clause. Following a Norwegian decree of 27 September 1931, suspending the redemption of money notes issued by the Bank of Norway, the service of the loans and the repayment of bonds drawn for redemption was no longer effected except by payment in Norwegian kroner. The French bond holders requested the presumption of the service of the loans on the basis of the nominal amount in gold, but the discussions—interrupted in 1939 by the war—were unsuccessful. In 1953 the French Government approached the Norwegian Government directly on behalf of its nationals, but this was in vain. It was then that the French Government decided to refer the matter to the Court.

The Application founds the jurisdiction of the Court in this case on the acceptance by both Parties of the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court by virtue of the Declarations which they made in pursuance of Article 36 of the Statute (the Norwegian Declaration of 16 November 1946; the French Declaration of 1 March 1949).

The Memorial of the French Government having been duly filed, the Norwegian Government, within the time-limit fixed by the Court for the filing of the Counter-Memorial, raised certain preliminary objections. The French Government will have an opportunity to answer these objections in a written statement of its observations and submissions, after which the Court will hear argument on the Preliminary Objections.

6. *Advisory opinion concerning judgements of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organisation upon complaints made against the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*

A request for an advisory opinion has been submitted to the Court by the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization which, by a resolution adopted at its forty-second session on 18 November 1955, acting within the framework of article XII of the statute of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organisation, decided to challenge the decisions rendered by the Tribunal on 26 April 1955 in the Leff, Duberg and Wilcox cases and on 29 October 1955 in the Bernstein case, and to refer the question of their validity to the International Court of Justice.

Accordingly, the Executive Board of UNESCO, by a resolution adopted at its forty-second session on 25 November 1955, decided to request the International Court of Justice to give an advisory opinion on the following questions:

"Having regard to the Statute of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organisation,

"Having regard to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and to any other relevant texts,

"Having regard to the contracts of appointment of Messrs. Duberg and Leff and Mrs. Wilcox and Mrs. Bernstein:

"I. Was the Administrative Tribunal competent, under Article II of its Statute, to hear the complaints introduced against the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 5 February 1955 by Messrs. Duberg and Leff and Mrs. Wilcox, and on 28 June 1955, by Mrs. Bernstein?

"II. In the case of an affirmative answer to Question I:

"(*a*) Was the Administrative Tribunal competent to determine whether the power of the Director-General not to renew fixed-term appointments has been exercised for the good of the service and in the interest of the Organization?

"(*b*) Was the Administrative Tribunal competent to pronounce on the attitude which the Director-General, under the terms of the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, ought to maintain in his relations with a Member State, particularly as regards the execution of the policy of the Government authorities of that Member State?

"III. In any case, what is the validity of the decisions given by the Administrative Tribunal in its Judgements Nos. 17, 18, 19 and 21?"

In December 1955, when the request for an opinion was received from the Executive Board of UNESCO, the President of the Court decided, in pursuance of Article 66, paragraph 2, of the Statute, that the Member States of UNESCO and the international organizations which had recognized the jurisdiction of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organisation were likely to be able to furnish information on the questions referred to the Court and would be entitled to present written statements. For this purpose 30 April 1956 was fixed as a time-limit. Within that time-limit the Court received a written statement from UNESCO, to which was appended a statement of the observations and submissions of the officials concerned; written statements were also received from the Governments of the United States, the French Republic, the United Kingdom and the Republic of China. These statements were communicated by the Registrar to all the States and international organizations referred to above.

Since the Court does not contemplate holding oral hearings in this case, a new time-limit has been fixed expiring on 30 June 1956 within which any of the States and organizations referred to above which desire to do so may comment in writing upon the written statements that have been filed.

The Court will begin its deliberations in this case at the beginning of September 1956.

7. Case concerning a right to passage over Indian territory (Portugal *v.* India)

On 22 December 1955, the Government of Portugal filed in the Registry of the International Court of Justice an Application instituting proceedings before the Court by the Portuguese Republic against the Republic of India.

The Application, which founds the jurisdiction of the Court on the acceptance by both States of the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court under Article 36, paragraph 2, of the Statute of the Court, sets out the claims of Portugal to certain rights of passage over Indian territory, between the Portuguese territory of Damao (Littoral Damao) and the Portuguese enclaved territories of Dadra and Nagar-Aveli, and between these two territories. It is claimed that the rights in question are based *inter alia,* on the treaty concluded in 1779 between Portugal and the Sovereign of Punem, who had dominion at that time over the territories of Dadra and Nagar-Aveli, and that the rights had been enjoyed since that date without interruption until July 1954, when India began to prevent Portugal from exercising the right of passage, a course in which India had persisted since that date, as a result of which Portugal had been unable to come to the aid of the enclaves and their inhabitants when attacked and occupied by armed bands coming from Indian territory. The Application further contends that diplomatic *démarches* by the Portuguese Government have proved fruitless, and it asks the Court:

"(*a*) To recognize and declare that Portugal is the holder or beneficiary of a right of passage between its territory of Damao (Littoral Damao) and its enclaved territories of Dadra and Nagar-Aveli, and between each of the latter, and that this right comprises the faculty of transit for persons and goods, including armed forces or other upholders of law and order, without restrictions or difficulties and in the manner and to the extent required by the effective exercise of Portuguese sovereignty in the said territories;

"(*b*) To recognize and declare that India has prevented and continues to prevent the exercise of the right in question, thus committing an offense to the detriment of Portuguese sovereignty over the enclaves of Dadra and Nagar-Aveli and violating its international obligations deriving from the above-mentioned sources and from any others, particularly Treaties, which may be applicable;

"(*c*) To adjudge that India should put an immediate end to this *de facto* situation by allowing Portugal to exercise the above-mentioned right of passage in the conditions herein set out."

Upon receipt of the Application, the Registrar forthwith notified the Government of India of the institution of these proceedings, in accordance with Article 40, paragraph 2, of the Statute of the Court.

By an Order dated 13 March 1956, the Court fixed the time-limits for the filing of the first two pleadings as follows: 15 June 1956, for the Memorial of Portugal, and 15 December 1956, for the Counter-Memorial of India. The rest of the procedure has been reserved for further decision.

(*c*) Other activities

A number of agreements registered with the Secretary-General of the United Nations during the past year have contained provisions conferring upon the President of the Court power to appoint umpires or arbitrators to arbitration tribunals provided for in the agreements. Examples of such provisions may be found in the following instruments:

Civil Air Transport Agreement between the United States of America and Japan (signed at Tokyo on 11 August 1952).

Agreement relating to Economic Co-operation between the United States of America and Haiti (signed at Washington on 13 March and 2 April 1953—exchange of notes).

Air Transport Agreement between the United States of America and Venezuela (signed at Caracas on 14 August 1953).

Agreement between the International Civil Aviation Organization and Egypt regarding Privileges, Immuni-

ties and Facilities in Egyptian territory (signed at Cairo on 27 August 1953).

Agreement between the United States of America and Norway, amending that of 6 October 1945 relating to Air Transport Services (signed at Washington on 6 August 1954—exchange of notes).

Agreement between the World Health Organization and Egypt relating to Privileges, Immunities and Facilities to be granted to the Organization (signed at Cairo on 25 March 1951).

Guarantee Agreements and Loan Agreements concluded by various States with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

(*d*) Composition of the Court and of the Chamber of Summary Procedure

The composition of the Court has not changed since the last annual report.

On 1 March 1956, the International Court of Justice constituted its Chamber of Summary Procedure for the ensuing year. The Court elected the following judges to form the Chamber:

President: Mr. Hackworth

Vice-President: Mr. Badawi

Members: Messrs. Guerrero, Basdevant and Hsu Mo

Substitute members: Messrs. Winiarski and Klaestad.

2. International Law Commission

(*a*) Seventh session of the Commission

At the time when the last annual report of the Secretary-General was prepared, the International Law Commission had not yet concluded its seventh session, held at Geneva from 2 May to 8 July 1955; the report therefore covered only the initial phase of the session. Additional information on the work of the seventh session of the Commission is given below:

(i) *Régime of the high seas*

The Commission studied the subject on the basis of a new report submitted by Mr. J. P. A. François, special rapporteur, which contained further revised draft articles.

In addition, the Commission took note of the report of the International Technical Conference on the Conservation of the Living Resources of the Sea which met in Rome from 18 April to 10 May 1955.

The Commission adopted thirty-eight provisional articles with commentaries (including nine articles relating to the conservation of the living resources of the high seas) relating to the régime of the high seas; it decided to submit these to Governments and to the organizations represented by observers at the Rome Conference for their observations.

In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 899 (IX) of 14 December 1954, the Commission proposed to group together systematically, at its eighth session, in a single report all the rules adopted by it in respect of the high seas, the territorial sea, the continental shelf, contiguous zones, fisheries and the conservation of the living resources of the sea.

(ii) *Régime of the territorial sea*

In addition to the comments of seventeen States Members of the United Nations, the Commission had before it a memorandum from the Government of Ecuador.

In the light of these comments, the Commission amended several articles of its previous draft. It also examined the questions held over in its report of 1954, concerning the breadth of the territorial sea, bays, groups of islands and the delimitation of the territorial sea at the mouth of rivers. Finally, the Commission adopted twenty-six draft articles which it submitted to Governments for comments.

(iii) *Other decisions*

The Commission decided to recommend to the General Assembly an amendment to article 12 of its statute transferring its seat from New York to Geneva.

It also decided to recommend to the General Assembly an amendment to article 10 of its statute providing that members should be elected for a period of five years, this amendment to take effect from 1 January 1957, the date on which members elected at the eleventh session of the General Assembly will take up their duties.

The Commission decided to begin the study of two topics, namely "State responsibility" and "Consular intercourse and immunities".

It appointed as special rapporteurs Sir Gerald Fitzmaurice on the "Law of treaties", Mr. F. V. García Amador on "State responsibility" and Mr. Jaroslav Zourek on "Consular intercourse and immunities".

Recalling General Assembly resolution 176 (II) of 21 November 1947 on the teaching of international law, the Commission recommended that the Assembly should examine the possibility of printing the studies, special reports and summary records of the Commission, including the possibility of publishing them in a United Nations juridical yearbook as mentioned in General Assembly resolution 686 (VII) of 5 December 1952.

Recalling the resolution adopted at its sixth session regarding closer co-operation with inter-American bodies, and considering that further contacts should be established between the International Law Commission and the Inter-American Council of Jurists through the participation in the sessions of these bodies of their respective secretaries, the Commission decided to request the Secretary-General to authorize the Secretary of the Commission to attend, in the capacity of observer, the third meeting of the Inter-American Council of Jurists to be held in Mexico City in the beginning of 1956, and to report to the Commission at its next session concerning such matters discussed by the Council as are also on the Commission's agenda.

(*b*) Consideration by the General Assembly of the report of the Commission on the work of its seventh session

The report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventh session was considered during the tenth session of the General Assembly by the Sixth Committee. In addition, and in relation to that part of the report dealing with the question of the publication of the documents of the Commission, the Secretary-General submitted to the Assembly a report prepared

in pursuance of resolution 686 (VII) concerning ways and means for making the evidence of customary international law more readily available.

On the recommendation of the Sixth Committee the Assembly, on 3 and 14 December 1955, adopted five draft resolutions relating to the work of the Commission.

By the first of these resolutions (984 (X)) the Assembly, amending article 12 of the Commission's statute, decided that the Commission should sit at the European Office of the United Nations at Geneva.

By resolution 985 (X), the Assembly amended article 10 and decided that, with effect from 1 January 1957, the members of the Commission should be elected for five years.

Following the amendment of article 10, the Assembly invited the Commission, by resolution 986 (X), to communicate to it the Commission's opinion concerning the amendment of article 11 relating to the filling of casual vacancies in the Commission's membership.

By resolution 987 (X) concerning the publication of the documents of the Commission, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to arrange as soon as possible for the printing of the following documents relating to the Commission's first seven sessions:

(1) The studies, special reports, principal draft resolutions and amendments presented to the Commission, in their original languages; and

(2) The summary records of the Commission, initially in English. These documents are to be printed for future sessions in English, French and Spanish.

Resolution 989 (X) dealt with the question of arbitral procedure (see section 5 below).

(*c*) Preparation for the eighth session of the Commission

(i) *Régimes of the high seas and the territorial sea*

The Secretary-General, by a circular letter dated 24 August 1955, drew the attention of the Governments of Member States to the report of the International Law Commission covering the work of its seventh session and, in accordance with the Commission's decision, invited them to submit their observations on the provisional articles concerning the régime of the high seas and on the draft articles on the régime of the territorial sea adopted by the Commission at the said session.

Also on 24 August, the Secretary-General transmitted the report covering the work of the seventh session to those organizations represented by observers at the International Technical Conference on the Conservation of the Living Resources of the Sea. In accordance with the Commission's request he invited these organizations to submit their comments on articles 24–33 reproduced, with a preamble, in an annex to chapter II of the Commission's report.

On 31 January 1956, the Secretary-General addressed a circular letter on the same subject to the Governments of the sixteen States admitted to membership on 14 December 1955.

By 15 June, comments had been received from the Governments of Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Lebanon, Nepal, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines, Sweden, Turkey, the Union of South Africa, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Yugoslavia.

In addition, comments on the article concerning the right to fish were also received by the Secretary-General from the International Commission for the North-West Atlantic Fisheries and were submitted to the International Law Commission at its eighth session.

In addition to the Governments of Member States mentioned in the last report of the Commission, the Government of Mexico also submitted its observations on the draft articles on the régime of the territorial sea.

Mr. J. P. A. François, special rapporteur, submitted a further report on questions relating to the régime of the high seas and the régime of the territorial sea which dealt with the following problems: the establishment of a central authority empowered to make regulations; the settlement of disputes; contiguous zones and the continental shelf; the regulation of fisheries, sedentary fisheries; points on which discussion was deferred at the seventh session (such as the right of passage in waters which become internal waters when the straight base-line system is applied, the exploration and exploitation of the sea-bed and subsoil of the high seas outside the continental shelf, the scientific research on the high seas outside the continental shelf and on the high seas covering the continental shelf); and omissions and ambiguities noted in recent publications and relating to the draft articles submitted by the Commission.

The special rapporteur also submitted a supplementary report dealing with the right of international organizations to sail vessels under their flags.

(ii) *The law of treaties*

The special rapporteur, Sir Gerald Fitzmaurice, submitted a report concentrated almost entirely on the topic of the framing and conclusion of treaties. Thirty out of the forty-two articles contained in the report dealt with the process of treaty making. A section was devoted to a commentary on the articles.

(iii) *State responsibility*

Mr. F. V. García Amador, special rapporteur, submitted a report on "International responsibility", in which he examined the traditional principles governing the responsibility of the State in international law and discussed the possible developments in that field. The report was followed by three annexes concerning codification of the topic under the auspices of the League of Nations, codification by inter-American bodies and codification by private bodies.

(iv) *Diplomatic intercourse and immunities*

In response to a request made by Mr. A. E. F. Sandström, special rapporteur, the Secretariat prepared a memorandum concerning the codification of international law relating to diplomatic intercourse and immunities. The purpose of the study was to present a broad outline of existing principles and rules and of the practice followed by States with regard to the immunities and privileges enjoyed by diplomatic representatives of foreign States. The memorandum reviewed the various attempts made by States to reach general agreement on the problem of diplomatic intercourse

and immunities and the relevant work of the League of Nations and the proposals made by private authorities; it summarized the main theories relating to the juridical basis of the privileges and immunities in question. A final section discussed some of the problems which the existence of these privileges and immunities involves.

(v) *Co-operation with inter-American bodies*

Pursuant to the resolution adopted by the International Law Commission on 29 June 1955, mentioned in section (*a*) (iii) above, the Secretary-General, by a letter dated 20 December 1955, informed the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Council of Jurists that the Secretary of the Commission would be authorized to attend the third meeting of the Council.

Accordingly the Secretary attended the sessions of the Council held at Mexico City from 17 January to 4 February 1956, in the capacity of observer, and submitted to the Commission a report on the proceedings. The report, divided into three main parts, gave a summary of the history of the Inter-American Council of Jurists, analysed those matters discussed at the meeting which were also on the agenda of the International Law Commission (régime of territorial waters and related questions, and reservations to multilateral treaties) and referred to the discussion by the Council of past and future methods of co-operation between the Council and the Commission. An addendum to the report contained the "Ciudad Trujillo resolution" adopted by the Inter-American Specialized Conference on Conservation of Natural Resources: Submarine Shelf and Oceanic Waters. This Conference was called in pursuance of resolution LXXXIV of the Tenth Inter-American Conference of the Organization of American States. It was held at Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic, from 15 to 28 March 1956. The purpose was to study the different aspects of the juridical and economical régime of the continental shelf and the conservation of natural resources.

(*d*) Eighth session of the Commission

The eighth session of the International Law Commission opened on 23 April 1956 at Geneva. The agenda for the session included the following items: régime of the high seas; régime of the territorial sea; law of treaties; diplomatic intercourse and immunities; consular intercourse and immunities; state responsibilty; arbitral procedure; question of amending article 11 of the statute of the Commission; publication of the documents of the Commission; co-operation with inter-American bodies; planning of the future work of the Commission.

The Commission elected the following officers: Mr. F. V. García Amador, Chairman; Mr. Jaroslav Zourek, First Vice-Chairman; Mr. Douglas L. Edmonds, Second Vice-Chairman; and Mr. J. P. A. François, General Rapporteur.

The Commission decided not to re-submit to the General Assembly the question of printing its documents and approved in principle the suggestions put forward in a note prepared by the Secretariat on the matter.

The Commission rejected a proposal to recommend that article 11 of its statute should be amended to provide that casual vacancies should be filled by the General Assembly instead of by the Commission itself.

The Commission thereafter mainly devoted its time to the preparation of its final report on the law of the sea to be submitted to the General Assembly at its eleventh session in pursuance of resolution 899 (IX).

At the time of writing of the present report, the Commission was still in session.

3. Question of defining aggression

The Special Committee set up by General Assembly resolution 895 (IX) is scheduled to meet five weeks before the opening of the eleventh session of the Assembly. The question of defining aggression will be placed on the provisional agenda of that session.

4. Elimination or reduction of future statelessness

By 15 June 1956, sixteen Governments (Belgium, Denmark, El Salvador, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, India, Israel, Lebanon, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Yugoslavia) had communicated their willingness to participate in the conference of plenipotentiaries envisaged in General Assembly resolution 896 (IX) to which reference was made in last years' report. The Governments of Brazil, Cuba, Egypt, Libya, Iran, Pakistan, Portugal and Syria had replied that they were not in a position to participate.

The Secretary-General on 8 August 1955 circulated to Governments, at the request of the Government of Denmark, a memorandum and draft convention on the reduction of statelessness prepared by the Government of Denmark.

In accordance with resolution 896 (IX), an international conference of plenipotentiaries will be convened as soon as at least twenty States have communicated to the Secretary-General their willingness to co-operate in such a conference.

5. Draft of arbitral procedure

As stated in the previous report, comments from thirteen Governments had been received by 15 June 1955 on the draft on arbitral procedure prepared by the International Law Commission at its fifth session.

By 15 June 1956, additional comments had been received from the Government of Honduras.

By resolution 989 (X), the General Assembly invited the Commission to consider the comments of Governments and the discussions in the Sixth Committee at the eighth and tenth sessions of the Assembly in so far as they might contribute further to the value of the draft on arbitral procedure.

The Assembly decided to place this topic on the provisional agenda of its thirteenth session, including the problem of the desirability of convening an international conference of plenipotentiaries to conclude a convention on arbitral procedure.

6. Multilateral conventions

(a) New conventions concluded under the auspices of the United Nations

The following instruments of which the Secretary-General is the depositary have been drawn up under the auspices of the United Nations since the publication of the last report:

International Agreement on Olive Oil, 1956, drawn up by the United Nations Conference on Olive Oil held at Geneva from 3 to 17 October 1955 and opened for signature at the Headquarters of the United Nations, New York, on 15 November 1955;

Agreement on Signs for Road Work, amending the European Agreement of 16 September 1950 supplementing the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic and the 1949 Protocol on Road Signs and Signals, signed at Geneva on 16 December 1955.

(b) Status of signatures, ratifications and accessions: entry into force

The number of international agreements for which the Secretary-General exercises depositary functions has risen to 120.

A total of 2,325 signatures have been affixed to those agreements, and 1,221 instruments of ratification, accession or notification have been transmitted to the Secretary-General. Eighty-seven of the agreements have entered into force, three of them since 16 June 1955 as follows:

Additional Protocol amending certain provisions of the Agreement providing for the provisional application of the Draft International Customs Conventions on Touring, on Commercial Road Vehicles and on the International Transport of Goods by Road, opened for signature at Geneva on 28 November 1952 (entered into force on 7 July 1955);

The amendments set forth in the annex to the Protocol of 7 December 1953 amending the Slavery Convention signed at Geneva on 25 September 1926 (entered into force on 7 July 1955);

International Convention to Facilitate the Importation of Commercial Samples and Advertising Material, done at Geneva on 7 November 1952 (entered into force on 20 November 1955).

(c) Revised General Act for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes

Paragraph 3 of article 43 of the Revised General Act for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, as approved by the General Assembly on 28 April 1949, provides that:

> "The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall draw up three lists, denominated respectively by the letters A, B and C, corresponding to the three forms of accession to the present Act provided for in article 38, in which shall be shown the accessions and additional declarations of the Contracting Parties. These lists, which shall be continually kept up to date, shall be published in the annual report presented to the General Assembly of the United Nations by the Secretary-General."

The lists required by the above article are as follows:

Accessions

A. *All the provisions of the Act (chapters I, II, III and IV)*

Belgium	23 December 1949
Norway	16 July 1951
Denmark	25 March 1952

B. *Provisions relating to conciliation and judicial settlement (chapters I and II), together with the general provisions dealing with these procedures (chapter IV)*

Sweden	22 June 1950

With the reservations provided in article 39, paragraph 2 (*a*), with the effect of excluding from the procedure described in the present Act disputes arising out of facts prior to the accession.

C. *Provisions relating to conciliation (chapter I) and the general provisions concerning that procedure (chapter IV)*

None.

7. Registration and publication of treaties and international agreements

There has been a considerable increase in the volume of registration during the year ended 15 June 1956. A total of 862 treaties and international agreements were registered with the Secretariat—31 *ex officio*, 737 by 26 Governments, and 94 by 8 specialized agencies. A total of 22 treaties and agreements were filed and recorded—5 by the Secretariat, 11 at the request of 2 Governments, and 6 at the request of 2 specialized agencies. This brought up to 5,203 the total of treaties and agreements registered or filed and recorded from 14 December 1946 to 15 June 1956. In addition, during the year ended 15 June 1956, 206 certified statements relating to those treaties and agreements were registered and 2 certified statements were filed and recorded, bringing up to 937 the total of certified statements registered or filed and recorded as of 15 June 1956.

The figures for the corresponding period of last year were 257 treaties and agreements registered by 18 Governments, 30 by 6 specialized agencies and 11 *ex officio*; 2 agreements were filed and recorded at the request of 2 Governments, 7 at the request of 3 specialized agencies and 5 *ex officio*—a total of 312. A total of 219 certified statements relating to those treaties and agreements were registered and 2 certified statements were filed and recorded.

During the period covered by the present report, the Secretariat has published 39 volumes of the *Treaty Series*; 39 more volumes (up to volume 197) are in process of being printed. General Index No. 5, a cumulative index covering the first one hundred volumes of the *Treaty Series* is also in preparation.

Pursuant to a request made by the Fifth Committee during the ninth session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions examined the problems raised in connexion with the publication of the *United Nations Treaty Series* and submitted reports

to the Assembly at its tenth session. Both reports reviewed various possible measures to effect economy and to reduce the delay in publication of the *Series*.

The Assembly referred the item to the Fifth Committee for consideration.

In resolution 966 (X), adopted on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee, the General Assembly, believing it desirable that various measures considered in the course of the tenth session should be further studied, requested the Secretary-General to submit to Member States and to the Advisory Committee, for consideration by the Assembly at its eleventh session, a report on the matter. A study of the problem has been undertaken and the results will appear in a report to be presented at a later date.

8. Privileges and immunities

(*a*) Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations

Since the date of the last annual report, three more Member States have become parties to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations. Czechoslovakia deposited its instrument of accession on 7 September 1955, with a reservation in respect of section 30. Ecuador acceded to the Convention on 22 March 1956, and Thailand on 30 March 1956.

Thus, forty-seven Member States are at present parties to the Convention. The list of these States, in chronological order, is as follows:

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	17 September 1946
Dominican Republic	7 March 1947
Liberia	14 March 1947
Iran	8 May 1947
Honduras	16 May 1947
Panama	27 May 1947
Guatemala	7 July 1947
El Salvador	9 July 1947
Ethiopia	22 July 1947
Haiti	6 August 1947
France	18 August 1947
Norway	18 August 1947
Sweden	28 August 1947
Afghanistan	5 September 1947
Philippines	28 October 1947
Nicaragua	29 November 1947
New Zealand	10 December 1947
Greece	29 December 1947
Poland	8 January 1948
Canada	22 January 1948
Iceland	10 March 1948
Netherlands	19 April 1948
India	13 May 1948
Denmark	10 June 1948
Egypt	17 September 1948
Pakistan	22 September 1948
Belgium	25 September 1948
Chile	15 October 1948
Luxembourg	14 February 1949
Australia	2 March 1949
Lebanon	10 March 1949
Iraq	15 September 1949
Israel	21 September 1949
Costa Rica	26 October 1949
Brazil	15 December 1949
Bolivia	23 December 1949
Yugoslavia	30 June 1950
Turkey	22 August 1950
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	22 September 1953
Syria	29 September 1953
Paraguay	2 October 1953
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	22 October 1953
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	20 November 1953
Burma	25 January 1955
Czechoslovakia	7 September 1955
Ecuador	22 March 1956
Thailand	30 March 1956

The Secretary-General wishes again to re-iterate his hope that those Member States that have not yet acceded to the Convention will do so at the earliest opportunity in accordance with the terms of General Assembly resolutions 93 (I) and 259 (III) whereby the Assembly determined that, if the United Nations was to achieve its purposes and perform its functions effectively, it was essential that States Members should unanimously approve the provisions of the Convention.

(*b*) Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies

Since the publication of the last annual report, one more State has acceded to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies, Thailand having deposited with the Secretary-General its instrument of accession on 30 March 1956 in respect of the Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization. In addition, two States already parties to the Convention have by notification extended the application of the Convention to additional specialized agencies. At present, therefore, twenty-one States are parties to the Convention.

9. Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations

The report of the Secretary-General covering the year 1 July 1953 to 30 June 1954 described an earlier stage of negotiations between the United Nations and the United States of America over the application of provisions of the Headquarters Agreement concerning the access to Headquarters of representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. This year, the World Federation of Trade Unions, a non-governmental organization having consultative status in category A, designated two representatives to attend the twenty-

first session of the Council, which began at Headquarters on 17 April 1956. The United States Government, in a statement made orally by one of its representatives to the Council's Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, and also in writing to the Secretary-General, explained that it was acting on the ground of national security in declining to grant a visa to one of the two representatives to attend the Council's session. The Secretary-General immediately requested consultations with the United States authorities, and referred to the arrangements made with the United States concerning access to Headquarters for representatives of non-governmental organizations, which arrangements had been reported to the Council at its sixteenth session held in 1953. It was announced to the Council on 3 May 1956 that, as a result of the consultations, the United States had authorized the issuance of a visa to the representative in question, and that negotiations were continuing to establish an effective and expeditious procedure in similar cases.

10. Rules of procedure of United Nations organs and related questions

(*a*) Question of the correction of votes in the General Assembly and its Committees

The last annual report of the Secretary-General gave an account of the proceedings which led to the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 901 (IX) on the question of correction of votes, as well as of the progress made by the Secretary-General in collecting relevant material from the Governments of Members, specialized agencies and certain other inter-governmental organizations. In compliance with the above resolution the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly, on 30 September 1955, a report containing a detailed comparative study of the rules in force in national parliaments and inter-governmental organizations and of the practices followed by them relating to (1) methods of voting and prevention of errors; (2) announcement of the results of votes; and (3) the problem of the correction of votes. In his conclusions the Secretary-General suggested, as an aid to discussion, some possible measures designed to prevent and correct mistakes which might occur during the voting procedures in the General Assembly and its Committees.

At the tenth session, the item was referred to the Sixth Committee for its consideration. In the course of the debate, some representatives favoured the adoption of explicit rules concerning the announcement of the results of votes and the correction of votes, as they considered the absence of such rules to be a serious deficiency which in the past had sometimes caused difficulties. Others felt that a satisfactory and fairly stable practice had developed in those matters but that it might be useful to give formal sanction to that practice by introducing some minor changes in the rules of procedure. A larger number of representatives were, however, of the opinion that there existed no necessity for amending the rules. It was stated, in this connexion, that such a course might create more problems than the Assembly was attempting to solve, deprive the prevailing system of its flexibility and lead to misunderstandings.

Upon the recommendation of the Sixth Committee, the Assembly adopted, on 29 November 1955, resolution 983 (X) by which it commended the report of the Secretary-General, took note of it and of the conclusions contained therein. The Assembly decided to take no further action for the present, but recommended that Member States should continue to study the question.

(*b*) Rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council

On 8 February 1956, the Trusteeship Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare a working paper setting forth the changes which should be made in the Council's rules of procedure in view of the fact that Italy, upon its admission to the United Nations, had become a member of the Council as a Member State administering a Trust Territory.

On 28 March, the Council adopted the proposal of the Secretary-General to delete references to Italy in the Council's supplementary rules of procedure. At the same meeting the Council, after considering a memorandum prepared by the Secretary-General, changed the French text of paragraph 2 of rule 59 to make it fully consistent with the English text.

11. Proposal to call a General Conference for the purpose of reviewing the Charter

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article 109 of the Charter, an item entitled "Proposal to call a General Conference of the Members of the United Nations for the purpose of reviewing the Charter" was placed by the Secretary-General on the provisional agenda of the tenth regular session of the General Assembly.

In his explanatory note concerning this agenda item, the Secretary-General referred to General Assembly resolution 796 (VIII) of 27 November 1953 by which he had been requested to prepare certain documentation to facilitate consideration, at the Assembly's tenth session, of the question of calling a General Conference. The following documentation was submitted to the Assembly in accordance with that resolution.

(1) The documents of the Co-ordination Committee and of the Advisory Committee of Jurists of the United Nations Conference on International Organization (San Francisco, 1945), published by the Secretary-General in 1954 as volumes 17, 18, 19 and 20 of the *Documents of the United Nations Conference on International Organization*;

(2) An index to the complete official records of the Conference, published by the Secretary-General in 1955 as volumes 21 and 22 of the above-mentioned series;

(3) The *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*, in five volumes, published by the Secretary-General in 1955. A separate index volume to the *Repertory* is in course of preparation.

The Assembly decided to include the item in the agenda of its tenth session and to consider it in plenary meeting without reference to a Committee.

The Assembly discussed the item at six meetings held between 17 and 21 November 1955. A draft resolution submitted by Canada, Ecuador, Iraq, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, *inter alia*,

proposed that the Assembly should appoint a committee, consisting of eighteen Member States, to consider the question of fixing a time and place for a General Conference to review the Charter, as well as the organization and procedures of the Conference. Amendments were submitted by Syria proposing that any reference to a decision, in principle, by the Assembly to call a General Conference should be deleted, and that the proposed committee should consider the desirability of the review of the Charter. Egypt and India also introduced an amendment which would have added twelve countries to the list of Member States composing the proposed committee.

The discussion centered on the question whether a General Conference should be held. A number of representatives who supported the draft resolution expressed the view that the General Assembly should avail itself of the provision of Article 109 and decide, in principle, at its tenth session, to hold a General Conference. These representatives considered that the Charter could not be considered immutable and that a review of its provisions would have the advantage of determining whether or not improvements in the United Nations machinery were desirable and feasible. They agreed, however, that the time, place and other details of the Conference should be given more careful study and would depend largely on the international situation. Other representatives considered that no review conference should be held. In their opinion, the Charter was a good instrument and the success of the United Nations depended on its implementation, rather than on its revision. They pointed out that, in any case, Article 108 could always be resorted to if amendment of a specific Article of the Charter should become necessary. They further pointed out that the Charter could not be revised without agreement of the two-thirds of the Members of the United Nations, including all the permanent members of the Security Council, and if there was agreement between these States on the important issues brought before the Organization there would be no need for revision of the Charter.

In view of the opinions expressed by delegations during the debate, the sponsors of the draft resolution revised the text to provide for the appointment of a committee consisting of all Members of the United Nations. Before the draft resolution was put to the vote, the President declared that since, under the revised text, the membership of the preparatory committee was increased to include all the Member States, there was no need for a separate vote on the amendment submitted by Egypt and India. The Syrian amendments were later rejected by the Assembly.

The General Assembly, after voting on the revised draft resolution paragraph by paragraph, adopted it as a whole (resolution 992 (X)). The resolution refers in the preamble, to paragraph 3 of Article 109 of the Charter and to the desirability of reviewing the Charter in the light of experience gained in its operation, and recognizes that such a review should be conducted under auspicious international circumstances. It provides in the operative part: (1) that a General Conference to review the Charter shall be held at an appropriate time; (2) that a committee consisting of all the Members of the United Nations is to consider, in consultation with the Secretary-General, the question of fixing a time and place for the Conference, and its organization and procedures; (3) that the Committee is to report with its recommendations to the General Assembly at its twelfth session; and (4) that the Secretary-General is to complete the publication programme undertaken pursuant to General Assembly resolution 796 (VIII) and continue, prior to the twelfth session of the General Assembly, to prepare and circulate supplements, as appropriate, to the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*. Finally, the resolution was transmitted to the Security Council.

The Secretary-General having duly transmitted the text of the resolution to the Council, the Council, on 16 December 1955, adopted by 9 votes to 1, with 1 abstention, a draft resolution submitted by Brazil, Iran, the United Kingdom and the United States by which it expressed its concurrence in the Assembly's decision as set forth in resolution 992 (X).

Pursuant to sub-paragraph (4) of resolution 992 (X), the Secretariat has undertaken the preparation of supplements to the *Repertory*, the organization and presentation of which follow closely those of the *Repertory* itself. The Secretary-General expects to circulate the supplements in 1957 prior to the twelfth session of the General Assembly.

At the time of preparation of the present report, the Committee established by resolution 992 (X) had not yet met.

12. Recognition and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards

Pursuant to resolution 570 (XIX) adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 20 May 1955, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Governments of States Members and non-members of the United Nations the report of the Committee on the Enforcement of International Arbitral Awards and the draft Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards annexed thereto. The Secretary-General asked Governments for their comments with respect to the text of the draft Convention, and the desirability of convening a conference to conclude a convention on the subject, and also inquired whether they would be prepared to participate in such a conference.

Furthermore, the Secretary-General, pursuant to the same resolution, transmitted the report of the Committee and the draft Convention to the International Chamber of Commerce and to twenty non-governmental organizations in consultative status considered to be interested in international commercial arbitration for their comments, and to the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law for its information.

The Secretary-General received substantive comments from twenty-two Governments, five non-governmental organizations and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law. Replies from nineteen Governments were in favour of calling an international conference. Four Governments stated that they would not participate if a conference were convened.

In pursuance of the same resolution, the Secretary-General prepared a report containing the comments of Governments and non-governmental organizations on the draft Convention and presented to the Council his observations on the subject. These observations included certain suggestions on the terms of reference of

an international conference and the action which the Secretary-General could take should the Council decide to convene a conference. As regards the terms of reference of the conference, the Secretary-General suggested that it might consider not only the proposed draft Convention but also other possible measures for increasing the effectiveness of arbitration in the settlement of international commercial disputes and make such recommendations as it might deem desirable.

During the debate in the Council, some representatives expressed reservations on certain clauses of the draft Convention and others, representing federal States, expressed doubts about the participation of their Governments in the conference because they considered the subject generally within the jurisdiction of constituent States.

The Council adopted resolution 604 (XXI) which incorporated substantially the Secretary-General's suggestions. By that resolution, the Council decided to call a conference of plenipotentiaries to conclude a Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards on the basis of the draft Convention prepared by the Committee on the Enforcement of International Arbitral Awards, taking into account the comments and suggestions made by Governments and non-governmental organizations, as well as the discussion at the twenty-first session of the Council; and to consider, if time permits, other possible measures for increasing the effectiveness of arbitration in the settlement of private law disputes and to make such recommendations as it may deem desirable. The Council decided to invite to the conference States Members of the United Nations or members of any specialized agency and any other State which is a party to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, and to invite to participate, without vote, the interested specialized agencies, the Hague Conference on Private International Law and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to ask the inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of international commercial arbitration to submit brief reports on the progress of their activities on the subject, together with any comments or suggestions they may have; to submit a consolidated report to the conference, including the reports received from the above organizations, and any other information he may have gathered on the subject, together with such observations as he may wish to make; and to make the necessary arrangements for calling the conference.

13. Maintenance obligations

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 572 (XIX), the Secretary-General, on 29 May 1956, convened the United Nations Conference on Maintenance Obligations at the Headquarters of the Organization. The Conference was scheduled to last until 20 June 1956.

In preparation for the Conference, the Secretary-General circulated the comments received from Governments and non-governmental organizations on the draft Convention on the Recovery Abroad of Claims for Maintenance, which was to serve as a working basis for the deliberations of the Conference. This draft Convention was drawn up by a Committee of Experts appointed by the Secretary-General, which met in Geneva in August 1952. The Secretary-General also prepared a memorandum summarizing the various steps taken by United Nations organs since 1947 on this subject.

Representatives of thirty-two Governments and observers from nine Governments participated in the Conference. The International Labour Organisation, the Inter-governmental Committee for European Migration, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law and twenty-one non-governmental organizations in consultative relationship with the Economic and Social Council participated in the Conference without the right to vote.

As of 15 June 1956, the Conference had agreed, subject to some drafting changes and final adoption, on the text of the Convention on the Recovery Abroad of Maintenance, intended to afford a means of overcoming legal and practical difficulties faced by dependents (principally women and children) seeking to obtain support from persons responsible for their maintenance who are in another country. Under the Convention, the Contracting Parties would undertake to designate "Transmitting Agencies" and "Receiving Agencies". A claimant in a Contracting State would make application, accompanied by the necessary documents, to a Transmitting Agency in that State for the recovery of maintenance from a respondent in another Contracting State. The documents would be forwarded by the Transmitting Agency to the Receiving Agency in the State of the respondent and that Receiving Agency would then take, on behalf of the claimant, "all appropriate steps for the recovery of maintenance, including the settlement of the claim and, where necessary, the institution and prosecution of an action for maintenance and the execution of any order or other judicial act for the payment of maintenance."

Claimants would not be charged any fees for the services rendered by Transmitting and Receiving Agencies, and provisions are made in the Convention for free legal aid and exemption from court costs and other charges. Furthermore, the transfer of funds payable as maintenance would be given the highest priority by States having foreign exchange regulations.

The Convention will be open for signature until 31 December 1956, and will come into force on the thirtieth day following the date of the deposit of the third instrument of ratification or accession.

14. Dissolution of the United Nations Tribunal in Libya and establishment of the Italian-Libyan Mixed Arbitration Commission

(*a*) Decision of 27 June 1955

The last three annual reports summarized the procedural developments with respect to the Italian Government's request of 7 March 1953 for instructions concerning the institutions, companies and associations listed in article 5 of the agreement concluded on 28 June 1951 between the United Kingdom and Italian Governments concerning the disposal of certain Italian property in Cyrenaica and in Tripolitania. The last report referred to a decision handed down by the United Nations Tribunal in Libya of 3 July 1954 by which the Tribunal resolved, *inter alia*, to treat the Italian request

as a dispute and gave a ruling on substance with regard to twelve of the establishments in question.

The Tribunal's final decision in this case, relating to the thirteen remaining establishments, was handed down on 27 June 1955.

The Tribunal rejected the plea of lack of competence again raised by the agent of the Libyan Government, and an application connected with this plea, and ruled with regard to the substance: (1) that the return of the property of five establishments (*Banco di Napoli, Banco di Sicilia, Società Anonima Petroli Libia, Magazzini Generali di Tripoli, Società Coloniale Italiana*) to the representatives of the said establishments was in conformity with the provisions of article I, paragraph 3 (*b*), of General Assembly resolution 388 A (V) of 15 December 1950 concerning economic and financial provisions relating to Libya; (2) that the return of the property of five other establishments (*Istituto Nazionale per le Case degli Impiegati dello Stato, Istituto Nazionale della Assicurazioni, Società Anonima Azienda Tabacchi Italiani, Reale Automobile Club d'Italia, Ente Italiano Audizioni Radiofoniche*) to their representatives was not in conformity with the provisions of article I, paragraph 3 (*b*), of the said resolution; (3) that the return of the land owned in common by the Italian Government and the *Società Agricola Coloniale della Stampa Emilio de Bono* to the representatives of the said *Società* was not in conformity with the provisions of article I, paragraph 3 (*a*), of the resolution; and (4) that the release from sequestration of the property of two other establishments (*Ente per la Colonizzazione della Libia, Istituto Nazionale della Previdenza Sociale (Ramo Colonizzazione)*) was not in conformity with the provisions of article IX of the said resolution. The Tribunal also ruled that the Libyan Government was entitled to place the property of the establishments referred to above under (2) and (4) and the land referred to under (3) again under sequestration.

The President of the Tribunal informed the Secretary-General, by a letter dated 5 July 1955, that in consequence of the decision cited above no cases now remained pending before the Tribunal.

(*b*) General Assembly resolution 988 (X) of 6 December 1955

In conformity with resolution 792 (VIII) adopted by the General Assembly on 23 October 1953, the question of the continuation of the United Nations Tribunal in Libya was included in the agenda of the tenth session and was considered by the Sixth Committee on the basis of a report by the Secretary-General, to which were annexed communications from the Governments of Italy and Libya. Subsequent to the distribution of this report, the Secretary-General circulated the texts of a communication from the President of the Tribunal, and of additional communications from the Governments of Italy and Libya.

The position taken by the Italian Government in these communications was that the continued existence of the Tribunal was an indispensable safeguard for the future. The Italian Government also considered that the seat of the Tribunal should be removed to a country other than Italy or Libya. The Libyan Government's position was that the United Nations Tribunal had completed its mission to the extent that it had been possible for it to do so and that, in the circumstances, its continuation was no longer justified. The Libyan Government indicated however its willingness, should a legal dispute arise in the future, to submit such a dispute to arbitration by a duly qualified body.

The respective positions of the Governments of Italy and Libya on the question of the continuation of the Tribunal were fully explained to the Sixth Committee by the representatives of these Governments who, with the approval of the Committee, took part in the discussion of the item. Several representatives of Member States welcomed the spirit of conciliation displayed by the Governments directly concerned during the Committee's proceedings, and expressed the opinion that a solution would be found which would be acceptable to those Governments and consistent with the interests of the United Nations in the matter.

A draft resolution was presented by nine delegations, which was the expression of a full agreement reached by Italy and Libya as a result of direct negotiations. The draft resolution was approved unanimously, after tribute had been paid by the sponsors to the work performed by the United Nations Tribunal in Libya.

The draft resolution, which was adopted on 6 December 1955 by the General Assembly (resolution 988 (X)), provided, *inter alia*, for the termination of the United Nations Tribunal in Libya on 31 December 1955 and for a transfer on that date of its functions, powers and jurisdiction to an Italian-Libyan Mixed Arbitration Commission consisting of three members. One of these members was to be appointed by the Government of Italy, one by the Government of Libya and the third by the Secretary-General, upon joint designation of Italy and Libya or, in the absence of a joint designation, directly by him. The Commission was to come into existence upon the appointment of the umpire and at least one of its other members. Two of the members of the Commission constitute a quorum for the performance of the Commission's functions and for all the Commission's deliberations a favourable vote of two members is sufficient. The Commission will determine its rules of procedure, including the designation of the place or places where its work is to be conducted. The expenses of the Commission are to be borne exclusively by Italy and Libya in equal shares.

In January 1956, the Secretary-General informed all Members of the Organization of the appointment of the following members of the Italian-Libyan Mixed Arbitration Commission:

Mr. Giuseppe Belli, Attorney of the State, member appointed by the Government of Italy;

Mr. Mohieddine Fekini, Minister Plenipotentiary, legal adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, member appointed by the Government of Libya;

Mr. Georges Leuch, Chairman of the Appeal Authority for German Assets in Switzerland, former Federal Judge, umpire appointed by the Secretary-General upon joint designation by the Italian and Libyan Governments.

15. United Nations Administrative Tribunal

(*a*) Activities of the Tribunal

The Administrative Tribunal met in Geneva in August 1955 to consider four cases.

The first case (judgement No. 57) concerned an application made by the former manager of the Cairo office of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East against the action of the Agency in terminating his mission contract on the ground of redundancy. At the request of the parties, the Tribunal decided to consider the question of competence alone and to defer consideration of the merits of the case until a later date. The Agency contended, *inter alia,* under article 2 of its statute, the Tribunal's competence extended only to staff members of the United Nations Secretariat and that the staff of UNRWA, while attached to the United Nations, could not be regarded as staff members of the Organization's Secretariat. It was further contended that, even if the internationally-recruited staff members of the Agency could be assimilated as members of the United Nations Secretariat, the applicant himself never enjoyed the status of an internationally-recruited staff member and, therefore, had no right of appeal to the Tribunal.

The Tribunal found that the General Assembly had recognized that in certain situations staff members who were not members of the United Nations Secretariat might have access to the Tribunal, and referred to resolution 678 (VII) of 21 December 1952, whereby the Assembly had recommended acceptance of the Tribunal's jurisdiction by the specialized agencies in cases involving Pension Fund regulations. In the present case, the Tribunal noted that, in pursuance of the terms of Assembly resolution 302 (IV) establishing UNRWA, the Secretary-General and the Director of the Agency had concluded a written agreement regarding conditions of employment of the Agency's staff and that the rules indicated therein provided for access to the Tribunal. Furthermore, it appeared from the documents submitted to the Tribunal that the Secretary-General and the Director of UNRWA had in the past been in agreement that the United Nations staff regulations and rules concerning right of appeal to the Tribunal were available to the applicant. On the basis of these considerations, the Tribunal decided that it had jurisdiction to consider the merits of the case.

Judgement No. 58 concerned an application by a former member of the staff of the New Delhi Information Centre against the Secretary-General's decision to terminate his temporary-indefinite appointment on the basis of staff regulation 9.1(*c*) and on the grounds of unsatisfactory service. The Tribunal found that, in the case of appeals by staff members of United Nations offices outside Headquarters or the European Office at Geneva, the Secretary-General was not obliged to arrange for the appeal to be heard by a board specially constituted for the purpose but could, within his discretion under staff rule 111.4(*b*), refer the appeal to either of the Appeals Boards existing at Headquarters or Geneva. The Tribunal held that, notwithstanding that the requirements concerning periodic reports had not been fully observed in the applicant's case, the decision of the Secretary-General was not vitiated by improper motive and that the Secretary-General was entitled to decide upon the termination under the provisions of staff regulation 9.1(*c*). The Tribunal accordingly rejected the claim.

The third case (judgement No. 59) concerned an application by a former staff member of the European Office against the decision to terminate her temporary-indefinite appointment. The Tribunal noted, *inter alia,* that the Secretary-General's action was not the ordinary one under staff regulation 9.1(*c*) for the termination of a temporary-indefinite appointment, but arose under staff regulation 4.5(*b*), under which the Secretary-General decides upon the eligibility of staff members for a permanent appointment. The Tribunal observed that the Review Board, in examining the case of the applicant, had knowledge of a letter which was not shown to the applicant, nor later to the Tribunal, but which might have reflected upon the applicant's character and integrity. The Tribunal, while believing that the action of the Secretary-General was not taken in bad faith, expressed the conviction that, upon the whole record made, the applicant had not been accorded due process as the Review Board was not itself clear as to the reason and content of its original report on the case and as, in reconsidering the case at the request of the Secretary-General, it did not sit as whole board. At the request of the Secretary-General, under article 9.2 of the statute, the Tribunal ordered that the case be remanded to the Review Board for reconsideration *de novo* and the payment of compensation to the applicant to the amount of three months' net base salary.

The last case (judgement No. 60) concerned a former member of the staff of the European Office who contested the Secretary-General's decision to terminate her temporary-indefinite appointment. The Tribunal found that, in considering the applicant's eligibility for permanent appointment, the Review Board had not observed all the procedure set forth by the Secretary-General and that this fact had been clearly indicated by the Joint Appeals Board when it had subsequently submitted a report to the Secretary-General. The Tribunal also noted that, although the Joint Appeals Board's report was favourable to the applicant, the Secretary-General was entitled, on the basis of other information available to him, to decide upon termination under the provisions of staff regulation 9.1(*c*). The Tribunal accordingly dismissed the claim. A separate concurring opinion was appended by an alternate member of the Tribunal.

The Tribunal met at Headquarters in November 1955 for the consideration of a motion for interpretation and an application.

The motion consisted of two requests: (1) a construction of certain judgements described in the Secretary-General's report for the year 1 July 1953 to 30 June 1954 (Nos. 29, 31, 33 to 37 of 21 August 1953 and 39 to 42 of 13 October 1953) such as to require the Secretary-General to reimburse the applicants for any taxes which they would be required to pay under United States law on the compensation awarded by the Tribunal in lieu of reinstatement; (2) that the Secretary-General be instructed to comply with judgements Nos. 39 to 42 of 13 October 1953 by remitting to the applicants concerned the amounts which he had deducted from their awards (in conformity with judgements Nos. 18, 30, 32 and 38 of 21 August 1953).

On the first part of the motion, the Tribunal observed that, in the proceedings conducted in 1953, the applicants had not submitted any claim for reimbursement of taxes which might eventually be imposed on the amounts of compensation awarded to them, nor had this matter been discussed in the hearings. Thus, in the present motion, the applicants were seeking the Tribunal's decision on a new question and not its interpretation of certain judgements the limits of which

had been previously fixed in the submissions of the parties. The second part of the motion related to the four applicants who had requested reinstatement in their posts. In the judgements of 21 August 1953 (Nos. 18, 30, 32 and 38) the Tribunal had ordered their reinstatement and the payment of arrears of salary up to the date of reinstatement, but with the deduction of certain indemnities paid to the applicants at the time of termination. The Secretary-General having declined, under article 9 of the statute, to reinstate the applicants, their cases had once again been submitted to the Tribunal in October 1953. In the judgements of 13 October, the Tribunal had ordered the payment of compensation in lieu of reinstatement and the payment of arrears of salary until the date of judgement. The applicants claimed that the judgements should be construed as requiring payment of full salary without the deductions ordered in the previous judgements. The Tribunal held that the second judgements did not rescind or supersede the first judgements but must be regarded as relating to that part of them which could not be carried into effect. The Tribunal, therefore, found that the amounts paid to the applicants at the time of termination were properly deductible from the arrears of salary awarded to the applicants in the judgements of 21 August and 13 October 1953. The Tribunal also upheld the action of the Secretary-General in the case where the sums to be deducted in respect of payments made to the applicant at the time of termination exceeded the arrears of salary due to her, and where the deficiency was made up by deductions from the amounts awarded to the applicant in respect of costs and in lieu of reinstatement.

The application (judgement No. 62) concerned an appeal by a staff member of the United Nations Secretariat, holding dual nationality (French and United States), against the Secretary-General's decision, taken in accordance with staff rule 104.8, to consider her as being of United States nationality for the purposes of the staff regulations and rules. The Tribunal observed that, in the exercise of his power to determine the nationality of a staff member for the purposes of the staff regulations and rules, the Secretary-General was in no way bound by the action taken by national authorities in such matters as the granting of passports or the imposition of taxes. At the same time, however, it was held that the Secretary-General was required to comply with the principle that the nationality assigned should be that of the State with which the staff member was most closely associated. While refraining from substituting its judgement for that of the Secretary-General or expressing any opinion as to the State with which, having regard to all circumstances, the applicant was most closely associated, the Tribunal recognized that the facts taken into account by the Secretary-General certainly constituted links between the applicant and the United States. Those links were such that it was reasonable for the Secretary-General, in the exercise of his discretionary power under staff rule 104.8, to conclude that the United States was the State with which the applicant was most closely associated. The Tribunal, therefore, rejected the application.

In conformity with its rules, the Tribunal met in plenary session at Headquarters on 30 November 1955 for the purpose of electing its officers for 1956 and the consideration of matters affecting the operation of the Tribunal. Amendments to the Tribunal's rules were adopted with respect to the exchange of documents during written proceedings (article 9) and a new article (16) was added to facilitate the application of article 9, paragraph 2, of the statute, which provides under certain conditions for the remanding of cases at the request of the Secretary-General.

(*b*) Agreements extending the Tribunal's jurisdiction to specialized agencies

In response to the recommendation made by the General Assembly in resolution 678 (VII), all the specialized agencies participating in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund as member organizations have signified their acceptance in principle of the jurisdiction of the Tribunal in matters involving applications alleging non-observance of Pension Fund regulations, and special agreements to this effect have been concluded by the Secretary-General with the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization. The agreements stipulate that the judgements of the Tribunal shall be final and without appeal, and that any additional expenses incurred by the United Nations in connexion with the Tribunal's proceedings in cases arising under the agreements shall be borne by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund. A corresponding provision relating to the Tribunal's jurisdiction in Pension Fund cases has been made in the Staff Pension Fund regulations by the addition of a new article XLI as adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 955 (X) of 3 November 1955.

(*c*) Procedure for review of Administrative Tribunal judgements

At the tenth session, the report of the Special Committee on Review of Administrative Tribunal Judgements, described in the last annual report of the Secretary-General, was referred by the General Assembly to the Fifth Committee for its consideration. In addition to the report, the Committee had before it the views of Member States and specialized agencies communicated to the Secretary-General in accordance with resolution 888 (IX) of 17 December 1954, and also the views of the Staff Council of the United Nations Secretariat, transmitted through the Secretary-General.

The Secretary-General explained orally to the Fifth Committee that neither he nor the staff had felt a need for a review procedure with respect to normal cases. He reiterated certain principles which he considered essential to a sound development of the administrative and legal system of the United Nations, and which were referred to in his last annual report. The Secretary-General also informed the Committee that, if the system of review recommended by the Special Committee were adopted, it was his intention to establish a procedure for transmitting documents to the International Court of Justice which would ensure equal rights for the staff member concerned.

The adoption of the amendments to the statute of the Administrative Tribunal recommended by the Special Committee was proposed in a draft resolution submitted by Argentina, Canada, China, Cuba, Iraq, Pakistan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

The draft resolution also contained a recommendation that Member States and the Secretary-General should not make oral statements before the Court in any proceedings for review of Administrative Tribunal judgements.

The representative of India submitted a number of amendments to the draft resolution. Two of these related to the grounds for review and were accepted by the sponsors. The others would have removed the right of a Member State to request a review and would have substituted the machinery of the Administrative Tribunal itself for the International Court of Justice and the proposed screening committee in the review procedure. These latter amendments were rejected by the Fifth Committee, and the draft resolution embodying the recommendations of the Special Committee, with the amendments accepted by the sponsors, was approved by 27 votes to 18, with 12 abstentions.

The report of the Fifth Committee was discussed by the General Assembly in two plenary meetings on 8 November 1955. Belgium introduced a draft resolution by which the Assembly would request an advisory opinion from the Court as to whether the resolution recommended by the Committee was juridically well founded, and would adjourn the discussion to the eleventh session. The representative of India also reintroduced the amendments which India had submitted in the Fifth Committee.

The representative of Belgium requested that priority in the voting should be accorded to his delegation's draft resolution. To this the Assembly agreed without objection, but rejected the draft resolution by 31 votes to 15, with 13 abstentions.

After the Assembly had decided, by 34 votes to 22, with 3 abstentions, that the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee did not require a two-thirds majority for adoption, the representative of India withdrew the Indian amendments.

The draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee was then adopted by the General Assembly on 8 November 1955, by 33 votes to 17, with 9 abstentions (resolution 957 (IX)). The resolution added two new articles to the statute of the Administrative Tribunal. The new article 11 provides, *inter alia,* for the establishment at Headquarters of a committee composed of Member States the representatives of which have served on the General Committee of the most recent regular session of the Assembly. A Member State, the Secretary-General or a person in respect of whom a judgement has been rendered by the Administrative Tribunal who objects to the judgement on the ground that the Tribunal has exceeded its jurisdiction or competence, has erred on a question of law relating to the provisions of the Charter, or has committed a fundamental error in procedure, may make an application to the Committee to request an advisory opinion of the Court on the matter. In the event of such application, the Committee shall decide whether or not there is a substantial basis for the application. If the Committee decides that such a basis exists it shall request an advisory opinion.

If no application is made, or if a decision to request an advisory opinion has not been taken within prescribed periods, the judgement of the Tribunal shall become final. When the Court has given an advisory opinion pursuant to a request, the Secretary-General shall either give effect to the opinion or request the Tribunal to convene specially in order that it may confirm its original judgement, or render a new judgement, in conformity with the opinion of the Court. In any case in which an award of compensation has been made by the Tribunal in favour of the person concerned and the Committee has requested an advisory opinion, the Secretary-General, if satisfied that such person will otherwise be handicapped in protecting his interests, shall make an advance payment to him of one-third of the amount awarded, less such termination benefits as have already been paid.

The new article 12 provides, *inter alia,* that the Secretary-General or the applicant may apply to the Tribunal for a revision of a judgement on the basis of a discovery of some fact of such a nature as to be a decisive factor which fact was, when the judgement was given, not known to the Tribunal and also to the party claiming revision, always provided that such ignorance was not due to negligence.

Since the adoption of these amendments only two cases have been decided by the Administrative Tribunal. In neither case was there an application for review or for revision of the judgement, and consequently no action has been taken under the new procedures.

16. Proceedings in national courts

During the year under review the United Nations has been engaged in certain judicial proceedings in which the status, privileges and immunities of the Organization have been in issue.

A former staff member employed by the United Nations Information Centre in Buenos Aires sued in the National Lower Labour Court of that city for termination indemnities, citing provisions of local law, when he was not offered a further appointment on the expiration of his fixed-term contract. The Centre did not submit to the jurisdiction of the Court, or enter any appearance, instead forwarding the summons to the Argentine Foreign Office with a request that the Labour Court be informed of the immunity from jurisdiction of the Centre.

On 23 November 1954, the Court handed down a judgement (*Bergareche v. United Nations Information Centre*: Juzgado Nacional 1ª Instancia del Trabajo Capital Federal (José Roberto Sarraute), Buenos Aires, 23 November 1954) in which it held itself incompetent to adjudicate on the issue, in the light of an opinion given the Court by a representative of the Ministerio Público on the international status of the Centre. The Court held itself incompetent on the ground that, having regard to Article 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and the General Convention on Privileges and Immunities, an action of this nature should be treated as an action against a diplomatic representative under Article 96 of the Argentine Constitution.

Despite this adverse decision the former staff member again filed his claim in a Labour Court. The Centre received three further summonses, but did not submit to the jurisdiction of the Court. At the time of writing no further information was available on the outcome of the case.

An action for damages was brought against the United Nations in the Supreme Court of New York

by a former refugee who had been injured in 1945 while travelling in Germany in a truck alleged to have been operated by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Organization (UNRRA).

The United Nations entered an appearance solely for the purpose of moving to set aside process on the ground that it was invalid as the Organization was not subject to the jurisdiction of the Court. The motion was supported by a suggestion of immunity filed with the Court on behalf of the State Department.

On 18 January 1956, the Court handed down a judgement (*Wencak v. United Nations*: New York Law Journal, 19 January 1956) dismissing the action and upholding the claim to immunity from jurisdiction. The Court considered that the communication by the Department of State was determinative. The Court further noted that even though the plaintiff might have had a cause of action on 1 December 1945 when the accident took place, it was not a cause of action at that date against the United Nations, which was in no sense a successor to UNRRA, as the Agreement of 27 September 1948 whereby the United Nations undertook to assume certain functions connected with the liquidation of UNRRA was not an assumption of liabilities upon succession to assets. The plaintiff has given notice that he intends to appeal against this decision.

A question involving the application of sections 16 and 18 of the Headquarters Agreement arose this year in the prosecution for disorderly conduct, in the City Magistrate's Court of New York, of two persons who had picketed on the sidewalk immediately outside the main entrance of the United Nations Headquarters. The United Nations filed a brief, *amicus curiae*, in the case.

The Magistrate found the defendants guilty. In a written opinion (*Case of the People v. Carcel and Collazo*), City Magistrate's Court of the City of New York, Upper Manhattan Arrest Court, 30 March 1956) he found that, in the traffic conditions existing at the main entrance, the arrest had represented a reasonable measure in accordance with the duty of the host, under sections 16 and 18 of the Headquarters Agreement, to ensure that the amenities and the tranquillity of the Headquarters District are not prejudiced by disturbances in its immediate vicinity. An appeal from this decision is now pending.

The United Nations has also taken part in judicial proceedings in United States Courts during the past year, with respect to claims assigned by UNRRA to the United Nations for the benefit of the United Nations Children's Fund. An account of the cases in which the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East has been involved in Courts of host countries in the Middle East will be found in the report of the Director-General of the Agency for 1955-1956.

Chapter V

DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING

(*a*) General considerations

The twelve months covered by this report have shown a significant increase in the attention given by the various information media to the United Nations and the support publicly expressed for the Organization. They have also shown the growth of a deeper understanding of the part that can be played by the Organization in international affairs. The increased support and attention have been evidenced in a number of ways such as: results of public opinion polls, increased press and radio coverage, speeches by national and community leaders and others in positions of responsibility, growing interest in the need for teaching about the United Nations, the steady stream of visitors to Headquarters, the day-to-day requests for information about the United Nations at Headquarters and the United Nations Information Centres, and the tone of public comment and discussion. Various factors have contributed to this development; the following are some of them.

The world-wide observance of the tenth anniversary of the Organization focussed attention on the United Nations and gave occasion for a reassessment of its developing role in world affairs. There were celebrations in ninety-two countries and territories. They included religious services, flag-raising ceremonies, messages and speeches by members of the Governments and individuals prominent in public life, issue of special commemorative stamps, celebrations in schools and colleges, concerts and parades. Celebrations were held both in June, to commemorate the signing of the Charter, and in October, for United Nations Day. The San Francisco Commemorative Meetings in June received world-wide press and radio coverage and provided the occasion for a number of speeches, articles, editorials and broadcasts summing up the work of the Organization and assessing its potentialities; again in October there was world-wide news coverage and comment on the United Nations.

The prevailing view in such comment may be summed up briefly. The Organization, it was felt, had become an indispensable part of international life and had achieved a considerable measure of success in its economic and social activities and in certain cases also in the political field. The principles of the Charter were still a valid guide for international conduct, although certain differences were expressed as to how those principles should be interpreted. It was recognized that the United Nations, of necessity, to a large extent mirrored the actual political situation and that its decisions, or lack of decisions, were conditioned by political considerations. By and large, there was evidence of a growing disposition to accept the United Nations for what it can do and not to expect from it easy and quick solutions of prevailing international problems.

Such an acceptance, of course, was by no means universal, and considerable impatience was expressed with what were felt to be defects in the structure or functioning of the Organization. Among the main criticisms levelled against the United Nations in different parts of the world were: that it had failed in some of its main undertakings to observe the principles of the Charter; that the Organization suffered from too preponderant an influence of the Great Powers; that, on the other hand, the influence of the smaller States on United Nations decisions was out of proportion to the degree of their responsibility for implementing such decisions; that the United Nations lacked the universality of membership which alone could make it truly representative of all the major regions and centres of political power in the world. Criticism of the use of the "veto" as tending to "paralyse" action by the Security Council continued in many parts of the world, as did criticism of the organization of "voting machinery" to "divert" the Organization from its original purposes in other parts of the world. In neither case, however, were these points of view as strongly and as widely pressed as in recent years. In some cases such criticisms were linked with demands for revision of the Charter, particularly in connexion with the consideration of that question by the General Assembly. But the arguments advanced against any fundamental revision at this time as well as the difficulties in the way also received wide attention and support.

As one of the main criticisms had been the failure over a period of years to admit the many applicants for membership, corresponding satisfaction was expressed throughout the world at the somewhat dramatic admission of sixteen new Members in the closing days of the Assembly's tenth session. This satisfaction was by no means confined to the countries newly admitted; their admission was widely accepted as a sign of a new vitality in the Organization. The view was also expressed that the admission of the new Members would ensure a more balanced geographical representation and that, in particular, Asia and Europe would be more adequately represented. Coupled with the satisfaction over the admission of the sixteen new Members disappointment was expressed that other applicants had not been admitted. The problem of the representation of China remained a question on which there were sharp differences of view.

As in previous years, there has been some discussion of the part properly belonging in international affairs

to alliances and regional groupings *vis-à-vis* the responsibilities of the United Nations. The effectiveness of regional or bilateral political action has also been discussed in relation to the potentialities of international political machinery. In general the opinion has been gaining that alliances and regional groupings can supplement but not replace the United Nations which provides the only meeting place for all the world in the age of the hydrogen bomb.

High on the list of reasons for increased interest in and understanding of the United Nations must be placed the success of the International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, held in Geneva in August 1955. Although the subject-matter of this Conference was highly technical, the significance of the Conference, with delegates from seventy-three countries, of all political shades of opinion, participating, was very widely grasped. The Conference served to dramatize the choice between "Atoms for Peace" and "Atoms for War". Newspapers all over the world hailed it as holding out hope for a new era of peaceful collaboration in the use of nuclear energy for the development of the world's resources for the benefit of all. At the same time it was remarked that one of the main accomplishments of the Conference had been to take away the clouds of secrecy and menace surrounding previous discussions of the question, thereby eliminating sources of suspicion and hatred. "The most significant scientific conference the world has known", the Conference may prove to be "a turning point in mankind's progress", "the cornerstone is being laid for the new era" were typical comments. The unanimous decision to hold another conference was widely welcomed. So, too, were the Assembly's discussions concerning an international atomic energy agency and the progress made by the Governments concerned in drafting a statute for the agency.

Alongside the hopes raised for the realization of the "Atoms for Peace" proposal—an idea which, in the words of one editorial writer, has "gripped the imagination of the world"—increasing concern has been expressed by responsible men in various parts of the world over the effects of nuclear explosions upon the level of radiation in the world. The decision of the Assembly to establish a scientific committee to study the effects of radiation was welcomed.

The improvement in the atmosphere of international relations noted in the last report has been widely commented upon, particularly in connexion with the Geneva "summit" meeting held in July 1955. The partial easing of "East-West" tensions has led to new hopes, widely expressed, for a measure of progress towards solving some of the outstanding political problems on which differences have persisted for so long. The Assembly's discussions on disarmament and the meetings of the Sub-Commission of the Disarmament Commission were closely followed and although failure to make more progress towards agreement occasioned considerable disappointment, the tone of comments has, on the whole, been more hopeful than in previous years.

News and comment, as always, have been conditioned by the turn of events, and the difficulties of the Organization have received their fair share of attention. The serious situation in Palestine and its possible consequences for world peace have occasioned universal concern. This wide publicity attending the action of the Security Council in using the good offices of the Secretary-General to assist the parties has, however, served to bring before the public eye the practical use which can be made of the Organization in such political difficulties.

While the positive achievements of the tenth session of the General Assembly, some of which have been mentioned above, received widespread notice, the areas of disagreement in the Assembly were also widely commented upon. In particular, considerable attention was paid to the differences regarding the Assembly's powers of discussion of the demands of certain territories for independence. Comment was sharply divided. Broadly speaking, the view was expressed, on the one hand, that it was the duty of the United Nations to uphold, in accordance with the principles of the Charter, the right of self-determination of peoples, and to discuss any matter affecting international relations brought before it. On the other hand, it was maintained that the Organization was sowing the seeds of its own destruction if it neglected a proper legal interpretation of the provisions of the Charter, in particular that clause which forbids it to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of Member States.

The work of the United Nations in the Trusteeship field, however, received increased recognition as a result of the holding in May 1956 of the plebiscite under United Nations auspices in the Trust Territory of Togoland under United Kingdom administration. This occasioned the more interest in that it was the first time the people of a territory under United Nations Trusteeship had, by a free vote, expressed their wishes on their own future.

Throughout the year, there has been increasing public discussion concerning the problems of economic development and the need for large-scale measures to assist in the development of less economically developed countries. The relative advantages of bilateral, regional and international measures have been weighed and debated. There has been an increasing tendency to stress the value of international machinery in rendering technical assistance. Discussions concerning the possible creation of a new United Nations agency for economic development occasioned widespread interest.

In the social field the United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held in August to September 1955 in Geneva, aroused attention. There was also considerable interest in schemes for community development.

The work of the technical assistance experts in the field, as well as of UNICEF teams, have continued to give a day-to-day practical example of the meaning of the United Nations in many areas of the world. This has been reflected in local news and opinion. The work of the experts and of UNICEF has become part of the regular "home news". Nor has interest been confined to the countries receiving assistance. In those countries providing experts and contributing to the technical assistance programme and to UNICEF there has been steady and considerable public support for the programmes. It is true that the technical assistance programmes fill but a very small part of the immense needs of the less economically developed countries, but their psychological effect as international undertakings is far beyond their material achievements. When it is considered that technical assistance experts have been drawn from seventy-seven countries and territories and

have been sent to over ninety countries, and also that UNICEF is at present aiding ninety-five countries, some idea may be gained of the role of these operations in explaining the United Nations to ordinary men and women in easily understandable terms.

Other measures which have served to stimulate regional and local interest in the United Nations are, as in previous years, the meetings of the three regional Economic Commissions for Europe, for Asia and the Far East, and for Latin America. The meetings of these commissions and their subsidiary bodies are closely followed and commented upon at some length in the regions concerned, and their growing contributions to the solution of the economic problems of their particular region have been widely recognized.

The opportunity presented to the Secretary-General, in opening the ECAFE session at Bangalore in February, to visit a number of Member countries in the Middle East and in Asia enabled him to form first-hand impressions of the state of public opinion concerning the United Nations in those countries. The interest in the United Nations is not confined to the responsible leaders of opinion nor to the well-educated and informed. It is also shown by ordinary men and women in every walk of life. To them the Organization is a symbol of both faith and hope, a guarantee that there is sense and equity in the world. Such a faith places upon the United Nations and all who have any part in its endeavours an immense moral responsibility.

(*b*) Development of United Nations public information activities

The direct impact of the activities of the United Nations information services on the development of public understanding is necessarily modest. According to the directives of the General Assembly such activities are limited to services to assist and, where necessary, supplement the information activities of the Governments of Member States and the various non-official information agencies and media. With the growth of public interest, increasing demands are made on the Secretariat for information and material suitable for use by press, radio and television services, assistance in the writing of books, material for speakers, libraries and students. Such demands have been further increased during the current year by the admission of the sixteen new Members which has necessitated an increase in the languages covered in basic publications, films and radio broadcasts.

The part played by Member Governments and non-governmental organizations in publicizing the ideas and ideals as well as the specific activities and achievements of the United Nations was amply demonstrated during the tenth anniversary celebrations, when governmental and non-governmental committees arranged nation-wide programmes, produced material for distribution and furnished speakers. On such occasions basic information materials are furnished by the United Nations information services, and the United Nations Information Centres and representatives in various countries co-operate with the Governments and organizations in arranging functions and providing information.

A significant development in measures to further understanding about the United Nations has been the increased introduction in the curricula of elementary and secondary schools of instruction about the Organization. The importance of giving the children of today a knowledge and understanding of the principles, purposes and activities of the United Nations cannot be over-estimated, as it will form the only solid basis for an informed understanding of the future activities and problems of the Organization. It is therefore planned in co-operation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to give increased emphasis to assistance to educators in the provision of suitable material, and a beginning has been made in this direction, for example by the production of educational films in direct co-operation with educational Ministries of Member countries. Higher and adult educational organizations have also shown a continuing interest in the United Nations. A number of universities have held courses devoted to the Organization and special lectures and seminars have been held in others. There has, in general, been an increased demand for material, and particularly for visual information material, from the United Nations information services for educational use.

In accordance with the directives of the Economic and Social Council, a programme is being developed for promoting among news personnel a wider knowledge of the work of the United Nations, of foreign countries and of international affairs. The main emphasis of the programme will be on fellowships, awarded on request from Member States, and on seminars. The first seminar is to take place in Geneva in July-August 1956.

As a further development of the United Nations' interne programmes the policy has been introduced, on an experimental basis, of using students as United Nations guide internes for a limited period to enable them to acquire a working knowledge of the United Nations. The internes come to Headquarters for one year, serving as guides for four months of that time. A first group of twenty students from as many countries have been acting as guides and it is planned to bring students from a further twenty countries for the next group. Instead of the annual Essay Contest it is planned to arrange study tours of Headquarters or the regional offices, the participants, not more than one from each region, being selected without a contest.

The policy of decentralization of United Nations information activities is being progressively extended. The United Nations Information Centres and officers in twenty-four countries are playing an increased part in liaison with the Governments, non-governmental organizations and information media in the areas which they serve. They are being strengthened in order to assist local agencies of information and education to give more coverage to United Nations affairs in ways specially adapted to the needs of their areas.

Decentralization is also being achieved through closer co-operation with Governments, information agencies and organizations. The local production of United Nations radio programmes by national radio systems is being encouraged on a world-wide basis, and in several countries is already in operation. Films on the United Nations are increasingly produced by Government film agencies and private film producing companies with assistance and material provided by the United Nations information services. Approximately twenty-five films in seven countries were made in this way during the past year. One film is being made in co-operation with an international non-governmental organization. The year has also seen similar closer co-operation with existing television services—national, commercial and educational.

The co-operation of the United Nations information services with non-governmental organizations, both at Headquarters and through the United Nations Information Centres, has continued, and the interest of such organizations has been maintained and strengthened over the year. General conferences of non-governmental organizations were held at Geneva in connexion with the United Nations Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy and at New York during the tenth session of the General Assembly. Seventy-five selected international organizations were represented at the former conference and 163 at the latter. One hundred and eighty-six organizations sent observers to the Commemorative Meetings at San Francisco. The number of organizations maintaining permanent observers accredited to the Department of Public Information at Headquarters has increased to 225.

The emphasis on the production of thematic material—in other words the treatment of subjects in their larger context rather than the reporting of isolated facts and events—has continued. Articles in the *United Nations Review* have aimed at giving a broad picture of the many activities of the United Nations and feature material has been made available for use by the Press. There has been a significant increase in the demands for illustrated feature stories. The thematic approach has also been largely followed in United Nations films.

Direct radio news reporting, apart from broadcasts in the official languages and Arabic, is now confined to events of particular importance. Radio material has been concentrated largely on the production of talks and documentaries and there has been more actuality reporting on United Nations activities from the field—in Asia and in Latin America, concentrating to a large extent on activities concerned with economic development, and on the occasion of the United Nations plebiscite in Togoland. The number of languages in which United Nations Radio is broadcasting has increased to thirty-five. Sixty-eight Member States and forty-five non-member States and territories are relaying or rebroadcasting such programmes.

Nevertheless, the furnishing of news and information to press and radio correspondents covering the United Nations remained a principal activity. With the number of United Nations events of more than usual public interest—the San Francisco Commemorative Meetings, the Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy at Geneva, the admission of new Members, the Palestine discussions—the demands for information and background briefings have been heavy. At San Francisco, for example, there were, in all, more than one thousand press, radio, television and film newsreel correspondents and photographers and a similar number at the Geneva Atomic Conference. In both cases roughly a million words were filed.

The interest of the public in United Nations Headquarters has been maintained. During the past year, for example, a total of 773,498 visitors took the guided tours at Headquarters. Over a half a million visitors were served by the United Nations Bookshop. Special briefings were arranged for a large number of groups and information material both on the Headquarters and on the structure and activities of the United Nations were made available.

Chapter VI

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

1. Conference and documents services

(a) The conference programme

The increase in the number of unforeseen meetings held away from Headquarters referred to by the Secretary-General in his report of last year has, as was then anticipated, continued during the period under review. As a result, the staff available to service the regular conference programme at Headquarters has again been seriously depleted, with consequent delays arising in the issuance of other documentation, particularly that requiring translation. During the period covered by the present report, technical language staff has been assigned to service the Administrative Tribunal, the Commission on the Racial Situation in the Union of South Africa, the Commission on International Commodity Trade, the *Ad Hoc* Committee and Congress on Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, the Conferences on Wheat and Olive Oil, the International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, and the Advisory Committee on Atomic Energy, all of which convened in Geneva. In addition, staff were assigned to service the meetings commemorating the Tenth Anniversary of the Signing of the Charter in San Francisco, and the Sub-Committee of the Disarmament Commission in London. All the above represented commitments additional to the regular conference programme. The language services of the European Office are staffed to meet the conference and documents requirements of the normal programme, and there is thus little leeway to absorb unforeseen meetings such as those mentioned above. The additional services so required can only be provided partly through the assignment of staff from Headquarters and partly through the expenditure by the European Office of temporary assistance funds not previously envisaged in the budget estimates.

(b) Documents services

As the years go by, the problem of keeping United Nations documentation within manageable limits becomes more and more difficult. New reports or studies are constantly being initiated as a result of discussions in all United Nations organs, main or subsidiary. The problem is being tackled with renewed energy and an already appreciable measure of success by Editorial Control, the reconstitution of which is not complete but is progressing steadily. Editorial Control belongs for administrative purposes to the Office of the Under-Secretary for Conference Services, but receives policy guidance and direction from the Chief Editor in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, with whom it works in close contact. The effect of their action in the assessment of documentary implications of resolutions and in the control of documentary proposals put forward by secretaries of main or subsidiary organs, as well as in prompting departments, when necessary, to revise the structure of their documentation, is now being strongly felt. Steps have been taken to ensure continuing relations with the main documents-producing areas of the Secretariat. In these areas studies and reports destined for publication are being increasingly supervised from the planning to the manuscript stage. Improvement in quality and reduction in volume, which have been made easier by a growing willingness on the part of substantive departments to co-operate with Editorial Control, have resulted in substantial savings in several instances. In other cases proposals have been made, the success of which is largely dependent upon the attitude eventually adopted by the responsible organs.

In the fields of translation, verbatim reporting and interpretation, special reference should be made to the services rendered by the Secretariat towards the smooth and satisfactory conduct of the International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy held in Geneva in August 1955. The extreme technical nature of the discussions presented unique language problems to the servicing staff. However, the training seminar which was organized prior to the Conference assisted materially in this regard.

Staff for the Arabic Translation Section, established in accordance with the decision taken by the General Assembly at its ninth session (resolution 878 (IX)) have been appointed and, during the period under review, an Arabic terminology, covering especially the economic, political and legal fields, has been drawn up and is being enlarged. In addition, the following important documents and publications of the United Nations have been issued in Arabic: the *Annual Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization,* 1 July 1954–15 June 1955; the *Report of the Security Council,* 16 July 1954–15 July 1955; *Economic Developments in the Middle East, 1945-1954* (supplement to the *World Economic Report*); *Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations* (volume 1 of the *Treaty Series,* Registry No. 4); report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on the Palestine question; the *Annual Report of the Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,* 1 July 1954-30 June 1955, together with the *Special Report of the Director concerning other Claimants for Relief;* the *Report of the Trusteeship Council,* 17 July 1954-

22 July 1955 and the resolutions of the ninth and tenth sessions of the General Assembly.

In the fields of printing and reproduction renewed endeavours have been made to effect economies through greater use of the internal reproduction facilities. Further to the trend outlined by the Secretary-General in his last report, and in view of the continued efforts to increase the productivity of the service, it was possible to transfer additional items from the external printing budget and charge them to internal reproduction. Furthermore, a number of unforeseen publications, for which no specific budget provision had been made, were undertaken by the Publishing Service and reproduced internally by photo-offset process.

The goal set by the Secretary-General in his previous report of placing approximately 30 per cent of the contractual printing programme in soft-currency countries has actually been achieved, for of the total expenditure for contractual printing during the year 1955, approximately 31.4 per cent was placed in soft currency areas, as compared with 23.5 per cent in 1954 and 19 per cent in 1953. The policy of decentralizing printing whenever the production schedule permits has also reflected an increase over the year 1954. Of the total expenditure incurred in 1955 for contractual printing, 49 per cent was expended outside the Headquarters area, as compared with 43 per cent for the year 1954.

One of the most important publishing achievements of the Secretariat during the period under review was the issuance of sixteen volumes in English of the Proceedings of the International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy. These volumes, totalling approximately 8,000 printed pages and containing some 5,600 graphs, charts and photographs, presented an unprecedented challenge in the fields of editing, copy preparation, visual presentation and printing. This challenge was not only met in the most economical way but, at the same time, the entire English edition was completed within the short period of eight months, to the great satisfaction of all those who participated in the Conference. Certain of the volumes in the French and Spanish editions have also been issued, and every effort is being made to complete the editions in all languages of the Conference as rapidly as possible.

The distribution of documentation to authorized recipients has been kept under control. The admission of the sixteen new Members has resulted in some increase, but the over-all trend to reduce and give more effective dissemination to United Nations documentation continues, with the pattern of distribution being kept under constant review. The placing of a greater proportion of contractual printing in soft-currency areas and the general programme of decentralization of such work has not created any major distribution problems.

(*c*) Library services

The year under review was characterized by an unusual staff turnover and resultant staffing difficulties in all sections. Numerically, these losses were largely compensated by short-term recruitment and transfers, but the over-all effectiveness of the staff was unavoidably adversely effected.

Accessions during 1955 amounted to about 9,000 books; 70,000 issues of newspapers and periodicals; 90,000 governmental documents; 80,000 United Nations and specialized agency documents; 1,800 maps; 3,300 sound recordings; and sixty cubic feet of archival material—a total of over a quarter of a million pieces of material of all kinds, of which more than 75 per cent were received by gift or exchange.

The United States Government, through the United States Mission to the United Nations, presented to the Library a gift of declassified documents of the United States Atomic Energy Commission. The gift was accepted by the Secretary-General on 28 March 1956. The collection was installed in a special room and at present comprises 1,900 original documents, 8,000 microcards and approximately 200 books.

Partially offsetting the large intake of material, the Library withdrew about 1,800 volumes from the catalogued collections and discarded about 120,000 newspapers, periodicals and documents. This material, all either superseded or no longer of interest to the Organization, was disposed of by sale or by deposit in other libraries. The experiment of offering some of these surplus books to the Secretariat at low unit prices was highly successful and produced about $700 in revenue.

On balance, therefore, the collections have grown by the equivalent of perhaps 15,000 to 20,000 volumes, and may now be said to total approximately 220,000 volumes, 46,000 maps, 5,700 microfilm reels, and 6,500 cubic feet of archival materials (including sound recordings).

As always, acquisition on non-library funds for the Technical Assistance Administration, regional commissions and other overseas offices has required a great deal of attention. One typical large requisition of this sort involved the procurement of more than 200 items from twenty-two sources in ten countries. In December, sixty-three similar but smaller requisitions were processed.

The year 1955 was the first full year of operation of the Archives Section of the Library, which had been created by the transfer in June 1954 of a part of the former Archives Section of the Communications and Records Division. The functions of the Section have not changed significantly.

In the course of the year about sixty cubic feet of records were accessioned and 891 cubic feet were disposed of by the transfer of about one-third to Records Retirement and the Geneva Office, the balance being destroyed after careful appraisal had indicated that they appeared to have insufficient value to the United Nations to warrant further preservation. As a result of the accessions and disposals mentioned above, the total quantity of records in custody was reduced from 7,350 cubic feet to 6,500 cubict feet, and enough storage space was made available to take care of anticipated accessions for at least one more year.

The central legislative indexing service, inaugurated in March 1955 on a trial basis, was fully operative by the end of the year. Official gazettes, slip laws and other legislative instruments, and treaties and other international agreements of about sixty States promulgated during the first six months of 1955 were indexed, and the index cards distributed regularly to interested departments of the Secretariat. At the end of the year under review, these cards were assembled for publication of a trial issue of a projected semi-annual international legislative index, planned for the summer of 1956.

Other bibliographical projects completed during the year included six additional volumes of the *Index to*

Proceedings series; two issues of the *List of Selected Articles*; twelve numbers of the *United Nations Documents Index* and the 1955 cumulated index; twelve issues of *New Publications in the United Nations Headquarters Library*; a key to the documentation scheme, entitled *United Nations Documents Series Symbols*; a *Bibliography on the Processes and Problems of Industrialization in Under-developed Countries*, and a considerable number of shorter bibliographies, reading lists and archives guides. In addition, indexes were prepared for a number of Secretariat publications, and work went forward on the *Cumulated Index to the United Nations Treaty Series*.

2. General services

The Office of General Services has continued to assume the responsibility for all services relating to the building and grounds; procurement and transportation; the United Nations Postal Administration; communications and records; and the administration of field operations.

(*a*) Buildings Management Service

In addition to the general maintenance and operation of the Headquarters facilities, an important part of the past year's work has been the planning and installing of expanded meeting-room accommodations for the delegations of the sixteen new Members admitted to the United Nations at the end of the tenth session of the General Assembly. The seating capacity of the General Assembly Hall and conference rooms has been enlarged appropriately. Various additional facilities have likewise been provided in the delegates' areas to meet the needs of the larger numbers of delegations, including the provision of more telephone service, restricted lounge space, etc.

A significant construction project has been carried out in the first basement area of the General Assembly Building in order to expand the general floor space there and to provide more amenities for visitors. A sixty-seat coffee shop has been installed, and improved arrangements have been provided for certain revenue-producing activities, including the United Nations Gift Centre, the Souvenir Shop, the stamp sales counter of the United Nations Postal Administration and the Visitors' Service.

Other improvements to the Headquarters include the re-designing of the General Assembly podium wall, completion of the fountain in the Secretariat Building courtyard and alterations and improvements to the smaller conference rooms.

It is of some general interest, perhaps, to note that the past year has seen the final stages of the original Headquarters construction programme. Practically all funds appropriated for Headquarters construction have been obligated and the programme as such will disappear. The use of the final part of the appropriations for the expansion, refinement and readjustment of facilities has, in the main enabled the Secretary-General to meet the present needs of the Organization, taking full advantage of experience to fulfil current requirements.

(*b*) Purchase and Transportation Service

The procurement programme, particularly in the technical assistance field, continues to be sizable; during the period under review there has been an increase of about 7 per cent in the total volume. Of the total expenditure, approximately one-third of the dollar value represents purchases from countries other than the United States of America.

It has been possible further to reorganize and readjust plans for the storage of property and documents in order to allow for the more efficient use of space in basement areas. This is of considerable importance in the long-range programme for a more orderly handling of documents and disposal of property, and the services concerned with these problems have co-operated to provide for the consolidation and concentration of materials wherever possible.

Travel services throughout the world have been provided through a contractual arrangement similar to those existing in recent years. During the period under consideration, the cost of these services was $2,261,728 of which about 41 per cent was paid in soft currencies.

Local passenger travel services have formed a minor part of the transportation programme, since requirements are small.

(*c*) Communications and Records Service

The volume of mail handled by the Mail Operations Unit was two-and-a-half million pieces for the period under review. The pouch services to overseas offices continue to expand and at present number thirty-four. In addition, there has been a considerable growth in cable traffic during the past year. The Mail and Messenger Services have been reorganized to some degree which has not only permitted the absorption of this increased workload without additional staff, but has also resulted in more efficient service at somewhat lower cost.

The Registry processed approximately 607,000 items of correspondence during the period covered by the present report; this represents an increase over the previous year. The further progress made during the past year in the consolidation of subject files has resulted in better utilization of staff and more efficient and expeditious servicing of records. Furthermore, the centralization of subject files has enabled the staff specializing in each broad group of subjects to produce a greater output of work *per capita* than was previously possible under the decentralized operations.

Retention and disposal schedules for a considerable number of groups of records, particularly those relating to financial and administrative matters, have now been developed; the application of these schedules resulted in the disposal of 2,110 linear feet of records over the past year. This aspect of the records control programme has also been extended to all overseas offices of the United Nations, which are now reporting periodically to the Registry on their records holdings and the Registry gives advice on the disposal of overseas records and on other problems on records management. The systematic disposal of records has released valuable storage equipment for re-issue throughout the Secretariat, and appreciable financial savings have been effected through its replacement by less expensive equipment for the storage of inactive records.

The Telecommunications Service has continued to provide simultaneous radio and television facilities, and specialized equipment for certain overseas establishments.

(*d*) United Nations Postal Administration

The demand for United Nations postage stamps during the period under review has again shown a considerable increase over the preceding year, with total gross receipts from all sources amounting to $650,000, and gross revenue to $565,000.

By means of various publicity measures, the sale of stamps has been promoted. Arrangements are now in effect whereby stamps are sold in several countries, orders being received by the United Nations Information Centres in those areas; plans have been made to extend this activity.

The United Nations Postal Administration has provided some 250 frames of philatelic exhibits to forty-four places in the United States and fourteen cities abroad.

The Postal Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America has continued to function well.

(*e*) Field Operations Service

Administrative services have been maintained by the Field Operations Service to missions of conciliation, mediation or observation established by the General Assembly and the Security Council. Support services required in connexion with staffing, travel supplies and continuous administrative liaison were also provided during the period under review for three Visiting Missions of the Trusteeship Council and to the Plebiscite Mission in Togoland under British administration. The personnel of the political missions increased during the period from approximately 250 to 315, of which 14 were representatives of Member States, 90 military observers and the balance Secretariat staff.

The recent intensified activity of and new decisions concerning the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine have greatly increased the workload of the Field Operations Service. Personnel requirements, transportation and communication equipment needs, and the number of military observers have all increased by approximately 25 per cent.

The increased versatility of Field Service staff, which has resulted from "on-the-job" training has permitted the assignment of staff members to various activities, including various work for the Technical Assistance Board.

The new Communications Centre in Geneva, which was engineered and constructed by Field Service personnel, has been judged a model of efficient planning by various impartial observers. Its excellent performance confirms this observation.

The New York-Geneva radio teleprinter circuit has provided instantaneous and continuous service between New York and Jerusalem during periods of emergency and at a fractional cost of normal commercial facilities.

3. Staff administration and services

(*a*) Staff regulations

Staff regulation 3.2 was amended by the General Assembly during its tenth session, so as to broaden the terms under which staff members might become entitled to payment of the education grant, and by raising the maximum amount of the grant from $200 per annum per child to $400 per annum per child. The conditions and amount of the children's allowance remained unchanged.

The General Assembly's decision followed a study of educational facilities available to the children of international civil servants undertaken by the International Civil Service Advisory Board at the request of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. The General Assembly, during its ninth session, had noted that this study was to be undertaken, and had recommended that the Secretary-General should give special consideration to whether the education grant should be made more generally available to staff than was the case under existing provisions. The General Assembly had also requested the International Civil Service Advisory Board to give consideration to the question of providing children with special facilities for the study of their mother tongue.

The decisions taken at the tenth session had the effect of making an education grant available to expatriated staff members who send their children to special national schools either at the duty station or elsewhere outside the home country or, if a national school were not available, to another school which was regarded by the Secretary-General as being well adapted towards the re-assimilation of the child in the home country. This condition could be invoked if the language of the duty station was different from that of the staff member's home country. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to make the grant available under certain conditions to expatriated staff members who were put to extra expense in giving their children tuition in their mother tongue, when the children were attending public schools which were conducted in another language.

(*b*) International Civil Service Advisory Board

The International Civil Service Advisory Board met at New York from 12 to 17 April 1956 and considered the question of the age of retirement in the United Nations and the specialized agencies. The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination at its twenty-first session had confirmed the decision taken at its twentieth session to request the ICSAB to review this question "in broad terms, taking into account not only the age limit as such but also the question of normal duration of a career". The Board's report will be available for consideration by the ACC at its next session.

(*c*) Review of salary, allowance and benefits system

During its tenth session, the General Assembly approved the establishment of a committee of eleven experts nominated by Governments to undertake a comprehensive review of the United Nations salary, allowance and benefits system, and to report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly at its eleventh session. Bearing in mind the fact that the existing system, which is common to the United Nations and a number of specialized agencies, is based on a survey conducted in 1949, and that difficulties had been encountered in its application, the Secretary-General had recommended that such a review be undertaken by the machinery of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.

The Committee which was composed of experts nominated by Argentina, Denmark, Egypt, France,

India, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, convened in New York on 10 May 1956, proceeded to Geneva for the period 29 May to 8 June 1956, and then returned to New York to complete its deliberations.

The report of the Committee is to be submitted to the General Assembly at its eleventh session, together with any comments thereon by the Secretary-General and the heads of the specialized agencies.

(*d*) Special internes

The first group of special internes, consisting of twenty young people from twenty countries, is completing the programme described by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly during its ninth and tenth sessions. Seventeen of the special internes commenced their programmes during the summer of 1955, and three, selected from countries in the southern hemisphere, entered at the beginning of 1956.

The programme consisted of duty as guides in the Visitors' Service and of assignment to departmental duties during the interneship phase, the time being divided equally between the two. A course of seventy-eight lectures was given to the special internes during the spring of 1956.

Selection of the special internes was made from among candidates of either sex between the ages of twenty and twenty-six, who had completed at least two years of study in a recognized college or university and who possessed fluency in the English language. The ability of the candidates to act as guides in the Visitors' Service was also taken into account.

The funds voted by the General Assembly provided for the payment of round-trip travel expenses of the special internes from their countries of origin to Headquarters and for a stipend of $42.50 per week. Guided by the experience of the first few months of the programme, the amount of the stipend was raised by the General Assembly to $50 per week, and an installation allowance of $100 was authorized.

The selection of a second group of twenty special internes, to report for a year's duty about 1 September 1956, is approaching completion. This group will be selected from among nationals of countries not included in the 1955-1956 programme.

(*e*) Health, housing and staff facilities

The medical examination programme for outside employees working at the Headquarters site was further extended during the past year to include elevator operators, sound engineers, etc. These employees are examined through their union health centres, health insurance plan facilities, or in the United Nations Health Service, the latter on a fee basis.

The Health Service has compiled and issued a series of pamphlets on such subjects as the purpose and functions of the Health Service, sick leave procedures, health hints for the tropics. Recommendations were made in respect to health programmes in United Nations missions and overseas areas where local medical facilities are not available.

The medical classification system was revised to co-ordinate classifications for (1) employment, (2) work placement, (3) pension benefits.

Leases were signed last year with Parkway Village by 235 staff members and representatives from Permanent Missions. The Directors of Parkway Village have exercised their option under the existing agreement to increase rents in 1957. Tenants will have the choice of accepting an increase of $1.00 per room per month or paying for their own electricity. Approximately 100 tenants will be affected. This increase is in line with rising rental costs in the New York area.

As in preceding years, two interne programmes were held during the year, one for students, most of whom were at the post-graduate level, and one for national civil servants. A small number of officials of non-governmental organizations was again included.

The already broad distribution by nationality was further enlarged by the addition of several internes from States newly admitted to membership in the United Nations. The quality of candidates for these programmes continues to be a source of satisfaction.

The social life of the staff continues to be greatly enriched by the untiring work and devotion of twenty-five volunteers who compose the Volunteer Services. The volunteers arrange hospitality, plan excursions, and maintain a wide and useful assortment of counselling and information services. Their efforts are specially directed to the integration of newly arrived staff members in the life of the Secretariat and the community.

4. Financial questions

(*a*) Working Capital Fund

By General Assembly resolution 981 (X) of 16 December 1955, the Working Capital Fund was reduced to $20 million for 1956, the advances of Member States being adjusted on the basis of the scale of assessments for the 1956 budget. As at 31 May 1956, a balance of $74,000 remained unpaid in respect of the 1956 advance to the Fund. As at the same date, the Secretary-General, under authorities granted in the above-mentioned resolution, had advanced from the Fund the following amounts:

	$US
(i) To finance budgetary expenditures pending the receipt of contributions	17,286,111
(ii) Loans to specialized agencies	5,874
(iii) Self-liquidating purchases and activities	250,929
(iv) Advances for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses	59,731
Total	17,602,645

In addition to the outstanding advances shown above, authorizations issued under resolution 980 (X) for which funds have not yet been disbursed amounted to $37,484.

(*b*) Contributions

As at 31 May 1956, the status of the 1956 contributions and of those in arrear for 1953, 1954 and 1955 was as follows:

	Assessment for the year, $US			
	1956	*1955*	*1954*	*1953*
Total amount	48,330,000	39,640,000	41,300,000	44,200,000
Payments and other credits	9,751,939	36,465,597	39,645,563	44,174,537
Balance due	38,578,061	3,174,403	1,654,437	25,463

The contributions to the budgets for prior years have been paid in full.

Assessments for 1956 were made on the basis of the scale of assessments adopted by the General Assembly for the years 1956, 1957 and 1958 in resolution 970 (X) of 15 December 1955. Under the authority granted the Secretary-General by this resolution to accept a portion of the contributions of Member States for the financial year 1956 in currencies other than United States dollars, the Secretary-General after consultation with the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions advised Member States that 17.65 per cent of their 1956 contributions could be paid in Swiss francs, 10.50 per cent in pounds sterling and 6.30 per cent in a group of other non-US dollar currencies.

In accordance with arrangements concluded between the United Kingdom and the United Nations, the Organization will be enabled to convert sterling into certain other currencies, with the consent of the countries whose currencies are involved.

The amount of the 1956 assessments payable by Member States in currencies other than United States dollars amounts to the equivalent of $9,780,000 comprising the equivalent in Swiss francs of $5 million, in pounds sterling of $3 million and in other non-US currencies of $1,780,000. Twenty-two Member States decided to avail themselves of the option to pay in one or more of these currencies.

On 14 December 1955, sixteen new Member States were admitted to membership in the United Nations (resolution 995 (X)). The assessment of the new Members was deferred until the eleventh session of the General Assembly. The Committee on Contributions was convened in March 1956 to consider the assessment of the new Members. In its report to the General Assembly the Committee has recommended a revised scale of assessments for 1956, 1957 and 1958 including the new Members.

(*c*) Status of the 1955 and 1956 budgets

The General Assembly, at its ninth session (resolution 890 (IX)), voted appropriations for 1955 of $46,963,800. By resolution 978 (X) of 16 December 1955, this amount was increased, by supplementary appropriations of $3,264,200, to a total of $50,228,000.

The financial report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 1955, as certified by the Board of Auditors, show that total obligations for the year amounted to $50,089,808, thus leaving an unobligated balance of appropriations of $138,192. To the amount of $138,192 was added the excess ($365,051) of actual over estimated income, bringing the operating surplus for the year to $503,243. To that amount may be added $274,093, representing savings in liquidating previous years' obligations, as well as $228,722, representing the net balance of 1954 surplus account. Of the total surplus $449,750 was applied as credits to Members' contributions for the financial year 1956.

At its tenth session, the General Assembly approved a budget of $48,566,350 for the expenses of the Organization during 1956 (resolution 979 (X)). As at 31 May 1956, obligations and expenditures under that appropriation amounted to $21,228,856, leaving an unobligated balance of $27,337,494.

(*d*) Budget estimates for 1957

Expenditures for 1957 are initially estimated at $48,250,700 and miscellaneous income at $2,146,060, leaving a net total of $46,104,640. The 1956 budget was approved at a level of $48,566,350 and miscellaneous income in a sum of $3,050,800 with a net total of $45,515,550.

(*e*) Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds

The Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds appointed by the General Assembly at its ninth session (resolution 861 (IX)), reported to the tenth session of the General Assembly. During the tenth session, the Committee was re-established (resolution 958 (X)) for the purpose of consulting with Member and non-Member States as to the amounts which Governments may contribute on a voluntary basis toward each of the programmes approved by the General Assembly for which funds are not available through the regular budget of the United Nations and for which the Committee is specifically requested to obtain pledges of voluntary contributions from Governments.

The Negotiating Committee will report to the Assembly on the results achieved through its activities during the current year in respect of the voluntary programmes with which it is concerned.

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